

NEW YEAR NEW START

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DRINK OR DRIVE

Is one glass too many? Mary Ann Sieghart

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UP FOR THE CUP

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Naming may follow official caution Police call for no action on minister's son

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE are recommending that no prosecution should be brought against the senior Cabinet minister's son accused of selling cannabis to an undercover journalist from the Mirror.

The 17-year-old was arrested for allegedly supplying cannabis after he was taken to Kennington police station in London by his father a few days before Christmas.

A seven-day investigation by senior detectives is understood to have concluded that no charges should be brought because the amount of cannabis resin - 1.92 grammes - was very small, the teenager was very young, and there is a dispute between witnesses about the circumstances and conversation which led up to the purchase of the drug.

According to a police source yesterday, the investigation found there was "a total conflict of evidence about who did and said what", and casts doubt on the conduct of Dawn Alford, the Mirror reporter.

Scotland Yard has told the CPS that police felt it was not in the public interest to prosecute.

A caution is now standard for many minor drug cases. The CPS response to the report is expected next week. If the youth is cautioned, he would be reprimanded and a record will be kept. If he was arrested for another offence in the near future, the caution would count against him.

Sir Brian Hayes, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, yesterday denied that any political pressure had been put on the police. Replying to questions from Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, he said all decisions were taken by Detective Chief Inspector Keith Gausden, the investigating officer.

According to the Mirror the youth sold the cannabis to Miss Alford in a South London public house on 13 December. Earlier this week she was arrested for possession of the cannabis.

Sir Brian Hayes said: "In some circumstances, the only practical way to conduct an evidential interview under caution is to arrest a person who might otherwise refuse to take part." The arrest was not ordered by the CPS but they had been consulted.

Police are adamant that the arrest of Miss Alford was not part of a new campaign to crack down on investigative journalism. They said yesterday there was no intention to arrest her when she met Chief Inspector Gausden at Kennington to make a statement and hand over the drugs. But he was concerned at the time which elapsed after the drug

was bought. Police expected it to be passed to a private analyst by the newspaper the day after the purchase, but it was not handed to an analyst for well over 24 hours. During the interview police decided to caution Miss Alford because of something she said. When she was cautioned, a Mirror group which included a lawyer, threatened to leave and the officer arrested her to prevent this.

Yesterday a spokeswoman for the CPS said the police report would be allocated to a lawyer from a South London branch of the service for review.

The report will be the responsibility of Gordon Hetherington, the chief prosecutor for London. For the moment there is no plan for the file to be sent to Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In 96 per cent of cases, police follow CPS advice. In the event of disputes, they are settled between senior officers and senior CPS officials.

Penalties for cannabis offences vary around the country, but 56 per cent of possession cases in 1995 were dealt with by caution. Home Office figures for 1995 show that 88 per cent of cases of unlawful supply were taken to court and 45 per cent led to jail sentences.

There is no tariff in the youth courts which deal with offenders under the age of 18, but a first offender might get a fine or community work.

Experts divided, page 2



Helen Mirren at her marriage yesterday in Ardersier, Scotland to Taylor Hackford, an American film director

Highland wedding for Helen Mirren

By Kathryn Knight

THE actress Helen Mirren, who for many years has been an outspoken opponent of marriage, yesterday married her long-term partner in a small Highland church.

Villagers in the tiny parish of Ardersier, near Inverness, were invited to join the small band of guests who gathered to watch Miss Mirren, 51, tie the knot with the American director Taylor Hackford in a candlelit evening ceremony.

The couple had hoped to keep the ceremony a secret but Miss Mirren, famous for her role as Detective Inspector Jane Tennison in TV's

Prime Suspect, gave the game away when she ordered flowers. As she arrived ten minutes late at the church, wearing a gold and cream brocade jacket and long silk skirt, she told onlookers: "You are all welcome to come inside."

The couple, who lived together for 12 years, were staying with friends in Castle Stuart and contacted the minister, the Rev Alex Whiteford, six weeks ago. The ceremony will come as a surprise to many of Miss Mirren's fans, who are used to her outspoken views on marriage.

She shared a house on a six-acre estate in Hollywood with Mr Hackford, whom she met on the set of White Nights, but

last May she told OK magazine: "People ask why we don't get married, but why should we? It's just not to my taste. When I see my friends fall in love, get married and then divorced it seems like this embarrassing awful change of mind."

Miss Mirren, who won an Emmy for Prime Suspect, also recently courted controversy after helping to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Woman's Hour last year by posing naked for the cover of the Radio Times. Yesterday, however, the actress stuck with tradition, with Amazing Grace and To Be a Pilgrim. It was Mr Hackford's birthday and guests sang a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday.

Spencer fears touts will exploit Princess's grave

By Joanna Bale

EARL SPENCER has expressed concern that black market touts will profit when tickets to visit the site of the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales go on sale via a credit card telephone line.

Touts are certain to be among thousands of callers from around the world who are expected to flood the "hotline" when it opens on January 5.

Despite safeguards, there is no infallible system for preventing touts from cashing in on the Princess's death by selling the tickets on the black market at hugely inflated prices. The ticket price has yet to be announced, but numbers are to be strictly limited because the site at Althorp House will open for just two months next summer.

Earl Spencer's spokeswoman, Shelley-Anne Clairmont, said: "One of the Earl's prime concerns has been ways of preventing the tickets falling into the hands of touts. We have devised a scheme which we hope will work which, for obvious reasons, we will not reveal details of."

The grounds of Althorp House will be open each year from July 1 - the Princess's birthday - to August 30. The anniversary of her death, August 31, will remain a private day for members of her family.

Visitors will be able to walk by the lake surrounding the island on which the Princess is buried. A 200-year-old stable block near the house is to be converted, at a cost of £1 million, into a museum chronicling her life.

Profits from the tickets will be donated to the Princess's favourite charities. Althorp is usually open in summer and until now has attracted around 10,000 visitors a year.

New Fiat evidence, page 2

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Tip for the top

Thunderer. The Times racing tipster, has proved the best bet among national newspapers in 1997 by winning the Racing Post National Press Challenge. It is the second time in three years Thunderer has won the competition, which is based on selections for all races throughout the 12 months.

Today's tips, pages 26 and 27

Iron tooth

Anthropologists believe they may have discovered the first dental implant. The patient was a young man in the 1st century and the tooth was wrought iron.

Behind The Times overseas: Australia \$3.50, Belgium B Frs 100, Canada \$3.50, Denmark Dkr 18.00, Cyprus Cyp 2.00, France F 10.00, Germany DM 4.50, Gibraltar GIB 2.00, Greece Gr 6.00, Netherlands F 5.50, Ireland I 5.00, Luxembourg Lf 5.00, Macedonia M 2.00, Malta Mta 4.50, Norway Nkr 25.00, Spain Ptas 325, Portugal P 2.00, Sweden S 3.50, Switzerland S Frs 3.00, USA \$3.50.



How Nessie frightened Scotland's Civil Service

By Our Science Editor

AS ARGUMENTS raged over the existence of the Loch Ness monster, Scottish civil servants knew exactly what to do - shift responsibility to somebody else.

Documents released yesterday under the 30-year rule make it plain that Nessie was seen as a monster headache for the Scottish Office and the police. Civil servants worried about traffic disruption, cruelty to animals, and the dangers of an international incident.

The files for the 1970s are full of memos disclaiming responsibility for Nessie. The main worry was a Japanese plan, announced in 1967, to track down the monster with a rifle loaded with anaesthetic darts. The organiser was told it would be unlikely that the Secretary of State would grant him permission to use such a weapon.

"I think our policy should be to continue to be inscrutably polite and helpful, but non-committal in dealing with

such foreign interest in Nessie," said an internal Scottish Office note at the time.

In 1969, the then chief constable of the area - Mr A McClure - voiced alarm over plans by monster-hunters to photograph Nessie from a submarine and to take a sample of her skin. But, he told civil servants, he felt the law was not much help to him. He was right. Nothing in law existed to protect the "rights" of Nessie before the 1975 Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act. A former Chief Constable was bluffing when in 1933 he offered five constables to protect the beast, along with local residents and visitors whom, he said, would be alerted "for the purposes of preventing any attack on the animal, if sighted".

From this exchange of correspondence, Nessie-watchers assumed, wrongly, that the monster was protected by a special government order.

Through the 1970s, interest in Nessie continued to mount in the outside world - but not in the Scottish Office. A newly-arrived official in the Scottish Development Department, wrote in 1971 of his "surprise" to learn his department was also responsible for handling questions about Nessie, like possible cruelty to her.

When one woman from Cornwall protested at media reports of a plan to capture Nessie using a sex hormone, her letter ended up on a Scottish Office desk. However, officials concluded that with no proof that Nessie was a freshwater fish, they were spared the problem of deciding whether sex hormone bait was legal.

"I think this letter has been in every other department other than Monty Python's Ministry of Funny Walks - which might be the best place for it," said a covering note.

Records open, pages 8 & 9



Atlantic gales are returning

Gales and driving rain are expected to return this morning. Six people died and 140,000 homes were left without power after Christmas Eve storms battered north-west England and Wales.

Forecast, page 20

Exchange stops FTSE bandits

By Michael Clark

THE London Stock Exchange closed 20 minutes earlier than planned yesterday as authorities tried to stamp out manipulation of the year's closing FTSE 100 index figure.

A panel of academics was brought in to examine irregular price movements and made changes to 11 share prices. The exchange said it was happy that the market had not been manipulated.

Two traders at JP Morgan were dismissed this month and the American bank was fined £350,000 after attempts to manipulate the market. Yesterday the exchange was concerned about advantage being taken of movements in the against the futures market.

Officials were also mindful that the higher share prices close at on December 31, the better a pension fund's performance looks on paper.

The index closed up 3.2 at 5135.5.

Markets, page 40

Official: a lot of what you fancy can do you good

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE first new year resolution to throw in the bin is the diet sheet, says a leading American medical journal.

Being overweight is not half as unhealthy as doctors have told us and curing obesity could be worse than enduring it, say Dr Jerome Kassirer, Editor in Chief of the New England Journal of Medicine, and his Executive Editor, Dr Marcia Angell.

True, as weight increases so does the chance of dying, but only slowly. A woman of 5ft 5in can weigh 12 stone

before she needs to worry, and a 5ft 10in man can be 14stone. The older you are, the more weight you can carry. After the age of 74, there is no correlation at all between body mass and mortality.

Even among younger people, where such a link does exist, it does not follow that losing weight will necessarily reduce risks. "We do not know whether a person who loses 20lb will thereby acquire the same reduced risk as a person who started out 20lb lighter," says the editorial. "The few studies of mortality among people who voluntarily lost weight produced

inconsistent results; some even suggested that weight loss increased mortality."

The data that link weight and mortality are "limited, fragmentary, and ambiguous". Many studies fail to take into account confounding variables, such as that fatter people are more likely to be sedentary, and poor.

Doctors should speak out against the public's "excessive infatuation with being thin and the extreme, expensive, and potentially dangerous measures taken to attain that goal". Many people are sacrificing their appreciation of one of the great

pleasures of life in an attempt to look like semi-starved celebrities. "Countless numbers of our daughters and increasingly many of our sons are suffering immeasurable torment in fruitless weight-loss schemes and scans, and some are losing their lives. Doctors can help the public regain a sense of proportion."

But many doctors claim that obesity is a disease, and others "medicalise" behaviour they do not approve of. The result is to see overweight people in medical terms, "rather than as ordinary people who happen to be heavier than average," says the editorial.

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# Crown lawyers split over naming youth

REPORTS BY NICHOLAS WOOD, DANIEL MCGRORY AND ANDREW PIERCE

LEGAL experts, including Government law officers, were divided last night over whether the Cabinet minister's son can be named if the Crown Prosecution Service accept what is thought to be the police advice to drop the case.

Senior figures in the office of John Morris, the Attorney-General, which obtained an injunction on Tuesday banning publication of the name, were among those saying that the 17-year-old could be identified.

One source said: "The judge's order would lapse if the boy is not charged and our belief is he could be named. Even if the police caution him and take no further action, then the law suggests he could be named."

The Crown Prosecution Service, which will examine the teenager's police file on Monday, confessed it was unclear about whether he could be

## THE LAW

named if it agrees not to proceed with court action. A senior figure in the CPS said: "We have yet to examine the police file. But as he has not been proved guilty of any offence, I don't see how he can ever be named."

"This is obviously a grey area which needs to be sorted out by Parliament. The minister can, of course, volunteer the information, because if there are no charges he would not be in contempt of court."

An additional worry for the minister is that his parliamentary colleagues could, with impunity name the boy, which in turn could be reported by newspapers under absolute privilege. Labour Party strategists fear that they will be outmanoeuvred in the Commons by backbench MPs if the name of the minister is not

divulged before Parliament reassembles on January 12. They are hoping that the name will come out in an orderly fashion before then. MPs can speak at length in the Commons on any topic, subject to the strictures of the Speaker, without fear of legal challenge. Although the Tory party is determined not to exploit the minister's difficulties, the problem could lay on the Government's own side.

Lawyers argue that the case has highlighted the need for Parliament to look again at the rules of anonymity for juveniles. A specialist in media law, William Bennett, said last night: "You have to look at the purpose of this statute, which is to protect the identity of the juvenile at all costs."

"Even if he is just cautioned by police, the statute provides

for the juvenile to be protected so that he can get on with his life without his problems being aired in public. To name his father would be to taint the boy.

"Cases like this happen week in, week out, and no one pays any attention. The vast majority of offenders are cautioned but no one cares to name them. This boy is only an interesting case because of his father, so why punish the juvenile by naming him?"

"The Treasury Solicitor's office said that the basis of the Attorney-General's application banning *The Sun* from revealing the name was that it would "interfere with the course of justice". Mr Morris said that he was not politically motivated and argued that he was acting "as guardian of the public interest."

In a letter published in *The Times* today, Tom Welsh, editor of *Media Lawyer*, argues that it would have been legal to name the juvenile already, because "proceedings" have not yet begun against him. Mr Welsh says: "Even if he had been charged, I do not believe that amounts to proceedings. That, I believe, refers to appearance in court."

"If he is not to be prosecuted, then I can see no reason why he cannot be named. If he were to be charged but then, subsequently, the police decide not to pursue it, we are into a grey area that needs redefining."

Mr Welsh points out that the *Solicitor's Journal* of last January reported that the Home Office had "confirmed" that the law was to be changed to provide anonymity for juveniles accused of offences even if they were not charged. The journal described the current law as a loophole.

He also argues that the judge's injunction has presented the media with a new restriction, "apparently by accepting that to name the boy would impede the course of justice by depriving the court of its power to maintain the young man's anonymity."

Letters, page 17



Dawn Alford, enthusiastic in her work exposing crooks and bungling bureaucrats

## Undercover operator in need of a disguise

DAWN ALFORD, the *Mirror* reporter arrested for exposing a Cabinet minister's son as an alleged drug dealer, is no stranger to undercover work.

For the past six months Miss Alford, 30, has been co-author of the paper's weekly investigations column, which specialises in exposing crooked businessmen, tyrannical bosses and bungling bureaucrats.

Before that, she worked for *The Express on Sunday* and *The News of the World*, where, in March 1996, she was responsible for a "sex and drugs" expose involving Lee Sharpe, the former Manchester United star. She

## THE JOURNALIST

claimed that Sharpe had extolled the delights of drugs — even though he did not take them — and had made advances to her. In time-honoured fashion, she made her excuses and left.

In an interview only weeks before her sudden brush with fame, Miss Alford demonstrated a commendable enthusiasm for her work. "I have always fancied myself as a bit of an actress," she said. "I love being undercover. It's a great feeling when you come out of an interview with a conman and you have got it on tape. You think, 'Lovely,

I've got you.' She went on to say that women had an advantage in such cloak-and-dagger operations. "People don't suspect that a blonde like me, with a high squeaky voice, is really turning them over."

But fame — or at least the picture byline at the top of her weekly column — had its price. "I now have to wear sunglasses everywhere I go, even in the rain."

Now that her picture has appeared prominently in most national newspapers, Miss Alford is likely to need more elaborate disguises if she is to continue with her stock-in-trade of exposing shady businessmen.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Poisoning from food at record levels

Cases of food poisoning are at a record level, with government scientists forecasting that numbers for 1997 would be over 100,000 for the first time. In the past 15 years the chances of being poisoned by food has risen by seven times. Only one in ten cases are thought to be notified, so the true figure for 1997 could be closer to a million. Richard Gilbert, head of food safety policy development at the Public Health Laboratory Service, reports in *New Scientist* that up to 200 people died this year. A new strain of the salmonella bacteria is on the increase and has become immune to most antibiotics.

### Hunt for head

Police are searching for the severed head of a teenager after his naked torso was found in a bin behind a hotel in Blackpool. Christopher Hatfield, 17, had moved from Sarnley to work at the Pleasure Beach. Police said his body had been carefully dismembered. Hotels were asked to check freezers.

### Maze challenge

Mo-Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, was considering calls from the Ulster Unionist Party for an independent public inquiry into the Maze Prison — over the murder of the loyalist Billy Wright and the escape of an IRA inmate — similar to the inquiry into the IRA escape from Whitmoor Prison in 1994.

### Death quiz

Police were questioning the boyfriend of a mother of four who disappeared over Christmas. A charred body, believed to be that of Lisa Blunt, 23, was found on wasteland on an industrial estate near her home in Bestwood, Nottingham, on Tuesday night. A post-mortem examination was being held.

### Police chief wins

Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, the former head of Middlesbrough CID who championed zero-tolerance policing but is under suspension while corruption allegations are investigated, has been voted man of the year by listeners to BBC Radio Cleveland. He beat Tony Blair, one of the local MPs.

### Beef safeguards

Imported beef and beef products will be required from today to satisfy the same safeguards against "mad cow" disease as British-reared meat under the move announced by Jack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister, last month. Fears that Britain might be taken to the European Court of Justice have receded.

### Warship plea

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is to be asked to help to restore *HMS Warrior*, the world's first ocean-going, iron-hulled, armoured warship, launched in 1860 to sail under canvas and steam. Over the next six years it needs £2 million of work at Portsmouth, including relaying the upper deck and repairing rigging.

## Father is keen for a chance to go public

### THE MINISTER

THE Cabinet minister at the centre of the controversy has told colleagues he will go public if and when charges are formally dropped against his teenage son. The minister, who has become increasingly frustrated by the handling of the case, was ready to go public when the story broke but officials said No.

He has told friends that he was dismayed by the police decision to arrest the *Mirror* reporter. A Labour Party source said: "It was crass and stupid. No one in Government was consulted about it, but it was *maladroit*."

The Government has been stung by criticism that the arrest implied that ministers were involved in a cover-up. The Cabinet minister has told his friends and close colleagues he had been heartened by the sympathetic and positive press coverage up until

that point. "It changed when the reporter was arrested," said the Labour Party source.

The Cabinet minister is also anxious to come forward before the House of Commons reassembles on January 12. He fears that the name will be exposed, under the cloak of Parliamentary privilege, on the floor of the House. Such a move would further embarrass the Government as it could appear that the MP was performing a public duty in exposing secrecy.

The *Sun* newspaper decided yesterday not to press ahead with a challenge to the legal ban stopping it from naming the Cabinet minister, despite being given leave to appeal. It emerged yesterday that John Morris, QC, the Attorney General, had not consulted the

minister when he applied to the High Court for the injunction. Government lawyers took *The Sun* to court after the paper told the minister's office that it intended to identify the boy's father. No media organisation in the UK has so far named the youth because of the anonymity provided under the 1933 Act. Any breach of the Act would have resulted in a £5,000 fine. Any newspaper editor who defies the injunction could face jail.

In another development, Nigel Pascoe, QC, of the Bar Council, criticised allegations that Mr Morris was bowing to political pressure in taking out the injunction: "The personal integrity and independence of this Attorney General is beyond dispute and it is contemptible to suggest otherwise. His role requires him to act independently of all political pressure."

## CHRONOLOGY

December 11 or 12: anonymous call to *The Mirror* claims that the 17-year-old son of 'famous parents' is dealing in cannabis among friends at a pub near his home in London.

December 13: *The Mirror's* investigative reporter, Dawn Alford, and another writer, Tanith Carey, go to the pub. There they met the teenager and three of his friends. Alford later reports that, after chatting about rock concerts

and gossip over which celebrities took cocaine, the minister's son discussed using cannabis. Alford also claims that he boasted about a friend having some cannabis resin to sell and, within ten minutes, returned and sold her 1.92 grams for £10 outside the pub. She also claims that he passed on the minister's home number in case she wanted to contact him again.

*The Mirror* claims it first established with a laboratory that the

substance was cannabis and then its Editor, Piers Morgan, telephoned the minister. The minister asked for time to speak to his son. It is understood that, within minutes, he had spoken to No 10. Tony Blair made it clear that the minister should not resign.

December 15: the minister telephoned his local police station and explains that he will bring his son to make a statement. The boy admits selling the drug. His ver-

sion of the pub conversation is different from Alford's. He also volunteers the name of his supplier. After being interviewed under caution, he is given bail. The minister telephones *The Mirror*.

December 24: Alford's story appears.

December 26: a *Mirror* editorial says the paper never had any intention of naming the boy, but that, once the minister had gone to the police and the boy had con-

fessed, the incident was in the public domain. It is made clear that the family cannot be identified because the boy is under 18.

December 27: the minister asks no special favours for his son, but detectives tell *The Mirror* they are under pressure to "sort it out by the new year". The solicitor acting for the minister contacts editors warning that to name father or son would be a contempt of court.

December 28: Lord Wakeham,

chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, says the names should be kept secret.

December 29: Alford complains that she is arrested after going to the same police station to hand over the cannabis and give a statement.

December 30: *The Sun* threatens to name the minister.

December 31: it is believed that the police send the boy's file to the Crown Prosecution Service recommending no further action.

## Witnesses' account of second car in Diana crash revealed

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

TWO previously undisclosed witness accounts have corroborated the theory that a second car was involved in the crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales. French police revealed yesterday, exactly four months after the accident.

The witnesses, identified only as Francois, a financial director, and Valerie, said that seconds after the accident they saw a white Fiat Uno zig-zagging out of the tunnel where the Princess died. They said the car was making a loud noise as its exhaust pipe had been damaged.

The couple, who had been dining out near the Pont de l'Alma, were driving west along the Avenue de New York, which runs parallel to the traffic tunnel. They told police that their car was overtaken by the white Uno, a make which Francois said he immediately recognised because his mother-in-law has

one. The driver was described as being in his forties with brown hair and of European origin. A large dog was sitting on the back seat.

The couple said the driver's behaviour had immediately struck both of them. He was zig-zagging across the road and looked repeatedly over his shoulder, they said. At one point he cut the couple off, swinging into the right lane as if intending to park.

Francois was forced to brake and sounded his horn. Intrigued, he watched the Fiat for several seconds before losing sight of it.

Not realising the significance of what they had seen, the couple did not report the incident until September 18, almost three weeks later. Investigators did not reveal the witness account until yesterday, when it was reported in the newspaper *Le Parisien*. It is the most detailed report

so far about the mysterious car believed to have played a role in the crash which also killed Dodi Fayed and the intoxicated driver Henri Paul, Trevor Rees-Jones, the Princess's bodyguard and the sole survivor, still has no memory of the accident.

Investigators said that they did not place much weight on the couple's account until chemical and spectrographic analysis of scrapes found on the right side of the wrecked Mercedes identified a white paint used by Fiat on its Uno model built between 1983 and 1989.

The discovery of fragments of a Uno rear brake light some 30 yards before the point of impact reinforced the theory that the Mercedes had collided with a white Uno moments before the accident, prompting Hervé Stéphan, the French magistrate leading the investigation, to launch a massive

operation to try to trace the missing car.

In a bizarre coincidence also revealed yesterday, police said they had questioned the owner of a white Fiat Uno which had recently been repaired and repainted red. Upon learning that its driver owned a large dog, they believed they had solved the mystery. However, after experts examined the vehicle, the driver was eliminated from the inquiry, which is continuing.

EIA dispute has broken out over plans for a garden at Kensington Palace to commemorate the Princess. The Royal Parks Agency has submitted plans for a modern floral garden but the Historic Royal Palaces Agency is pressing for a revival of the formal William and Mary garden from the 18th century. A meeting with Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is planned to resolve the dispute.

## Morse code signs off with SOS

By PAUL WHITTAKER

AN SOS message from a 13,000-tonne vessel listing dangerously in mid-Atlantic yesterday signalled the end of an era for Morse code, which was officially scrapped at midnight.

The ship which tapped out Morse code's final SOS was the Bahamas-registered *MV Oak*, en route to Liverpool with 26 crew. It was 790 miles west of the British Isles when its cargo of wood shifted in a force 10 gale and very rough seas and it lost all engine power.

The historic signals were picked up by Stonehaven radio before being passed to the Falmouth coastguard at 10.05am, who initially thought it was a joke for

posterity, taken over the role of saving sailors. Falmouth coastguard spokesman Gerry Wood said: "We haven't had a Morse distress message for years."

Although the initial communication was via the old-fashioned system, all subsequent contact has been by modern satellite communications, which has taken over the role of saving sailors.

The move to scrap Morse originated in the 1980s when the International Maritime Organisation decided to phase it out. SOS messages have been flying around the world since 1908 when British and German radio operators agreed on the message. It was not because Save Our Souls was an easy phrase to remember but because S and

O are the two most easily recognised letters in Morse code.

The final Morse code distress message was not nearly as dramatic as the first SOS sent at sea 85 years ago by the *Titanic*. In the early hours of April 15, 1912, the wireless operator of the 46,352-tonne liner John Phillips sent the chilling message: "SOS SOS. Come at once. We have struck ice. Position 41 degrees 46' N 50 degrees 14' W. SOS."

At 2.05am the last message said: "Come as quickly as possible. Engine room filling to boilers."

Last night the *Oak's* master notified coastguards he was preparing to abandon ship even though no other ships were in the area to pick the crew up.

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**SATURDAY IN THE TIMES**

**The great new comic**

# Hanging on to life by his fingertips

Traffic helicopter drops to sea level as policeman climbs out to grab woman being swept away by the tide. Simon de Bruxelles reports

A POLICEMAN clung to the undercarriage of a helicopter to rescue a drowning woman from the sea. PC Phil Bracegirdle, 42, was a crewman on the aircraft when it responded to a 999 call after fishermen saw the woman swept out to sea at Sully, South Wales.

The helicopter was never intended for rescue work and is more often used for chasing stolen cars, but there was no time to lose if the woman's life was to be saved in the treacherous Bristol Channel.

By the time the helicopter arrived, the 37-year-old woman was 800 yards off shore and face down in the water. PC Bracegirdle said yesterday: "I slid back the door and fixed my safety harness before stepping out onto the skids. The woman was floating but unconscious

and the pilot lowered the helicopter so the skids were in the water.

"He hovered while I reached into the sea to grab her. I got her by the wrist on the third attempt. She was a dead weight but I managed to keep hold of her."

PC Bracegirdle put his arms round the right-hand skid and tried to cling on to the unconscious woman with both hands. He said: "My mind was focused on getting her to safety. I was just hanging on to her for dear life even though I was exhausted. The helicopter took off and headed for shore keeping a steady 4ft above the waves."

The helicopter was within a few yards of the shore when the police officer lost his grip and the woman fell into the shallows. The helicopter landed on the beach near Penarth, Glamorgan, and PC Bracegirdle leapt out and ran into the water. He found the woman still unconscious in 5ft of water but managed to drag her back to the beach. He was helped by helicopter crewman PC Paul Hayes and a member of the public who waded in.

The policeman gave the woman mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as she lay on the wet sand and was able to revive her. He said: "She was blue and I thought we had lost her. But after a few seconds, she started coughing and spluttering and I knew she was going to live."

By fortunate coincidence, the AS335 Twin Squirrel helicopter was carrying ambulance service paramedic Graham Plumridge, 35, who was on a training course. He also gave first aid while the



The woman is pulled from the water by PC Bracegirdle, standing on the helicopter undercarriage. Below, she is brought ashore after falling from his grip into the shallows



PC Bracegirdle: "I was hanging on for dear life"

woman was taken to the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. Her condition last night was satisfactory.

The woman has not been named. Eye-witnesses said that she walked into the water deliberately. Coastguards said that she would have died by the time the nearest rescue helicopter, fitted with a winch, arrived from RAF Chivenor in Devon.

PC Bracegirdle, an air support officer with Gwent Police, paid tribute to the skills of civilian pilot Captain Angus Patterson, 32, in Tuesday's rescue. He said: "It was incredible. He kept the helicopter as low as possible for me to reach the woman. It was a risk because the helicopter could have been brought down by a big wave. We are not trained for this sort of work but we could not just sit there and watch her drown."

Pete Davies, an air-support

sergeant, said: "It was an alien environment. These chaps are more used to following stolen cars along the roads. They both carried out a first-class rescue mission."

The rescue was witnessed by Alan Jenkins, 58, an amateur photographer taking pictures on the beach. He said: "Suddenly this helicopter swooped over me and hovered about 100ft above the water. It kept getting lower and lower over the sea and I couldn't believe it when I saw the skids drop below the surface. Then I saw a policeman getting out of the helicopter door and trying

to reach into the water. I could see the policeman hanging on to her - it was very dramatic."

Mr Jenkins watched as the woman's limp body dropped into the water again just before the helicopter landed on the beach. He said: "The PC waded into the tide until he was up to his neck. He managed to get hold of the woman and pull her onto the beach."

The helicopter is shared by the neighbouring South Wales and Gwent police forces. The Penarth inshore lifeboat was on its way to the drowning woman but would not have

reached her in time. Superintendent Colin Francis, head of South Wales Police operations said: "The helicopter pilot and crew showed tremendous skill and determination in what were very difficult and demanding circumstances. It was an excellent all-round team effort."

Police also thanked the man on the beach who waded in to the waves to help PC Bracegirdle support the woman as he gave the kiss of life. Superintendent Francis said: "He did a great job but left without giving his name and address."



## Son tells gathering his father was a bigamist

By PAUL WILKINSON

VILLAGERS who had gathered to honour a benefactor of their children's home were shocked when his son stood up to denounce him as a bigamist.

Standing by a memorial to children from the home, financed by Edward Barber, his son John told the villagers: "The man who thinks so much of children that he has dedicated this memorial to a children's home, thought very little of his own son. He is not a man who cares for children."

He said that his father had deserted his mother to make his fortune farming in Australia. There he had married another woman two years before he was divorced from his first wife, Jean.

Edward Barber grew up at Cleadon Cottage Children's Home in Cleadon, South Tyneside, and recently donated £2,500 for a memorial to the children from the home who later lost their lives fighting for Britain.

Civic leaders from South

Tyneside were invited to a dedication service and the Rev Norman Shaw, of All-Saints Church in Cleadon, was delighted when Mr Barber's son offered to "say a few words".

Yesterday Mr Shaw said: "It was the wrong time to make the speech. We were there to give thanks for those who gave their lives in the war. I'm disappointed this happened."

John Barber, a businessman from Nottingham who is now married and has children of his own, was unrepentant. He said: "I had to tell them the truth. I believe that those who accept gifts should know about the people who bear them. I feel very strongly that my father is purporting to care for children when he deserted his own. Ten years ago I managed to track him down and went to Australia offering the hand of friendship, but he rejected me."

Edward Barber married John's mother, Jean Alice Kearns in 1950. John Barber

claims his bride did not realise until the night before her wedding that her husband had already been married and divorced from a woman called Iris Hawkins. A year later John was born, but within 12 months the marriage had broken down.

Edward, who is now in his 70s, lives in Darlington, near Perth, Western Australia. He married Helen Isabelle Thyer there in 1953. Jean finally divorced Edward in 1955 on grounds of desertion.

Western Australia police believe it is not in the public interest to prosecute for bigamy. A spokesman said: "When interviewed by officers, Edward Barber claimed he was genuinely unaware of the legal ramifications arising from that matter. He presumed his marriage to Jean Barber had been annulled due to them being separated for over two years."

Edward Barber, who now has five children, declined to comment.



Edward Barber and Jean and John, the wife and son he left when he moved to Australia

## Troops go to war against sunburn and loud music

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH troops burnt by the sun while on foreign duty are suing their Government for neglecting to supply them with sunscreen.

A soldier who says that he contracted skin cancer while serving with the United Nations in Lebanon has lodged civil proceedings against the Defence Department. At least five more soldiers are expected to follow suit.

The case, disclosed yesterday, adds to a queue of claims against the department for alleged injuries while on duty. An estimated 10,000 soldiers claim that they were deafened on the firing ranges

and dozens more say they that suffered hearing loss while playing in army bands.

The Government is unsure of how to deal with the growing claims. More than 100 soldiers are lodging them every week, with each successful soldier securing about £25,000 compensation. Michael Smith, the Defence Minister, said that more than 150,000 serving and retired soldiers could sue the state, pushing the bill to more than £2 billion, the equivalent of the army budget for the next four years.

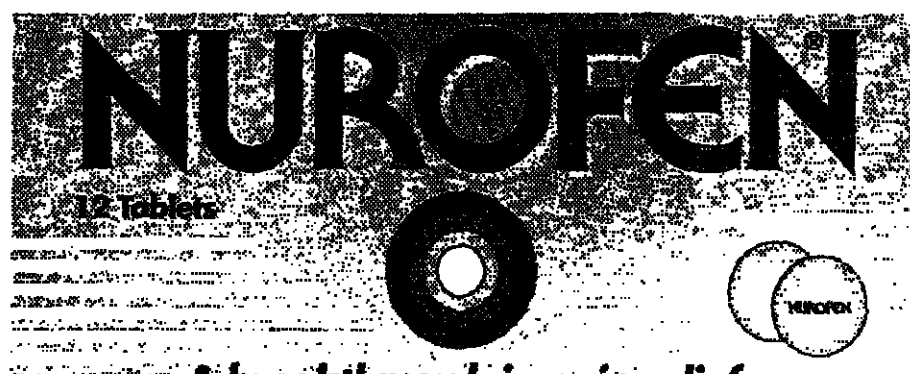
The department does not intend admitting liability in

the sunburn or deafness cases. A spokesman said yesterday that the soldiers serving abroad had been given daily allowances from which they were expected to buy sunscreen.

Unlike Britain, there is no army compensation scheme so that the only course of remedy for the soldiers is the courts. Solicitors are taking cases on a "no win, no fee" basis, securing about £9,000 in costs when successful. Soldiers complaining of deafness and tinnitus say the Army failed to protect their ears on their annual outing to the firing ranges.

# NUROFEN.

## FOCUSES ON THE SITE OF PAIN.



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Damian Whitworth in La Digue reports on a German's £18m compensation battle for estate confiscated by President

# 'Paradise lost' claim blights Blair's idyll

TONY BLAIR'S island idyll is being fought over in a disputed £18 million compensation claim lodged by its German former owners after it was confiscated by the President of the Seychelles.

The Mittermayer family, which lost the L'Union estate 16 years ago after a coup d'état, said last night it had not received a single rupee in compensation. It is planning to reject a "derisory" offer

made by the present, democratically elected, Government.

The office of President France Albert René, who is still in power, said that the Government had taken control of the estate, where Mr Blair is now enjoying his holiday, because it had been abandoned.

Klaus Mittermayer, 39, is acting on behalf of his father, Herbert, who bought property

on the Seychelles after making a fortune in electronics. He said that the Government offered around six million rupees (about £700,000) four weeks ago but he was writing to dismiss this as inadequate.

He said his father, who had bought the estate for £1.5 million in 1976 and invested a further £1.5 million in it, had rejected another offer of a fraction of that sum shortly after the land was appropriat-

ed in 1981, four years after the coup. It was only in 1993 that the new Seychelles constitution provided for compensation to be paid equivalent to the value of the property in that year.

Herr Mittermayer, who is based on Mahé, the largest island, while he fights for compensation, said that two independent assessments had put the value of the L'Union estate in excess of £12.5 million in 1993, a figure which rises to more than £18 million with lost interest.

He rejected the government's claim that the estate had "fallen into disrepair." "When my family bought the estate in 1976 the house and the estate were in a dilapidated condition but my father invested heavily and increased employment from 40 to 300 people," Herr Mittermayer said.

Gilbert Pool, special adviser to President René, said: "The Government accepts that compensation should be paid as with other cases where land might have been taken when it was left abandoned. There may be a difference of opinion in terms of the value."

The rock star George Harrison, who is understood to be in the process of settling compensation, and Adnan Khushoggi, the arms dealer, were among others who had land on Mahé confiscated. "The clas-



Herbert Mittermayer, above on the estate in 1981, and his son want President René, below, to improve

### LOCAL DELICACY MAY PROVE HARD TO STOMACH

IF, WHEN you woke this morning, you squinted at the new year and asked: "What did I do last night?" you are probably in very good company. One such person might just be Tony Blair. But while you may be regretting an overdose of seasonal spirits, the Prime Minister may be wondering whether he really swallowed the fruit bat proffered at dinner.



The fruit bat

In this corner of paradise, fruit bats, so called because they dine only on fruit, are themselves much dined on. There was lively speculation among the population on La Digue as to whether the Mr Blair would eat his bat.

The talk at La Digue Island Lodge hotel, which

also cooks for visitors to L'Union estate where Mr Blair is staying, was that the dish was to be offered to the Blairs as a new year treat. Opinion is divided on the culinary merits of fruit bats.

Asia Louis, a resident of the island, is not an eater. "There are so many of them they are a problem because there is no fruit for the people to eat. But we don't eat them, we keep them as pets," she said, and introduced Cocono, a sweet-faced, saucer-eyed, plump-bellied furry teddy bear with wings.

No such sentimentality from Gilbert Pool, the special adviser to the President. "It's a wonderful delicacy," he said. "It has a rather gamey taste and the legs are a bit like mature frogs' legs." The bat can be roasted, made into pâté or carried. "The trick is to marinate it overnight in red wine or vinegar. That retains the taste."

sic case was Khushoggi," Mr Pool said. "That was the same, the land was left abandoned. It is now being looked at for possible tourist development."

A Seychelles government source said that the idea for the Blairs' stay was broached when the Prime Minister met the deputy president, James Michel, at the Commonwealth Summit in Edinburgh last year. Mr Pool said that Mr Blair and his party had paid for their holiday at L'Union estate but were receiving some

hospitality from the Seychelles Government.

A colonial-style plantation house is at the heart of the estate, where tourists pay ten rupees and can cycle and wander at will. Directly behind the house is a pen containing giant tortoises. A tennis court is a stone's throw away if Mr Blair feels able to handle the humidity, which is currently around 80 to 85 per cent, and take a morning knockabout.

A rope around the Blair compound and felt-tip signs proclaiming "private" did not prevent tourists pedalling right across the Blair lawn. This only produced mild admonishments from Seychellois estate staff who were laughing and singing inside the house while the Blairs were out. The family has spent the past two days away from La Digue, exploring neighbouring islands by boat.



Mr Blair has another way of ensuring that his adventures are undisturbed. To avoid the lengthy plane and boat island-hopping that most passengers

employ to reach La Digue from the international airport on Mahé, he used a helicopter, which will be used for further excursions to inaccessible beaches and atolls. Back on land Mr Blair has been zipping about in a Jeep and other members of his group have opted for bicycles. Mr Blair will have an opportunity to tell the President about his holiday when he stops at Mahé for a meeting

on his return on Sunday. It is understood that some other government ministers might see the Prime Minister informally today.

Sadly, aside from the political squall over Mr Blair's choice of holiday destination, there have also been meteorological storms. The sunshine has been sporadic and, as the new year approached, the island was drenched in tropical downpours.

## A tough message home from beach

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

AS TONY Blair dined yesterday with Richard Branson on a palm-fringed beach in the Seychelles, a New Year message was issued by Downing Street warning of further tough decisions ahead in 1998 to try to curb the benefits bill.

With the Labour Party re-visit on benefits showing no sign of abating, the message from the Prime Minister was issued hours after the Virgin tycoon ferried him and his family by boat to Felicite. Mr Branson, who is island-hopping with his family, entertained the Blairs to lunch.

Robert Labiche, a chef who used to cook for the Shah of Persia and is a favourite of Mr Branson, provided a feast of creole cuisine and fresh fish. But back home it was serious business from the Prime Minister, with a message which warned that the new year would require hard work, determination and discipline. Mr Blair emphasised that no one in genuine need would be deprived of the help they deserved after the completion of the review into benefits. The Government would underline its commitment to its core principles with celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the NHS.

The Prime Minister, who is on holiday for a week, said he was determined to drive up standards in education, manage the economy to ensure improved living standards for ordinary families, and reform welfare to get people off benefit and into work.

"Let me make one thing absolutely clear: people in genuine need of help will get it," he wrote. "The talk of taking any benefit from the

most vulnerable in society is scaremongering. "But the present system is failing the poor and failing the country. We are spending more and more billions but failing to tackle the real problems of poverty. It has to change, and this Government will change it. Tough choices will come. They must be faced up to. It is then that our resolve, our strength of purpose, and our commitment will be tested. I

am confident we can meet that test and change Britain for good." One of Mr Blair's most persistent critics, the Euro MP Ken Coates, was summoned yesterday by his local party to explain himself amid warnings of disciplinary action. The North Nottinghamshire and Chesterfield European Constituency Labour Party issued a statement which said that confidence in Mr Coates had "evaporated".

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Branson: entertained the Blairs for lunch



# Zoo takes stock of its animals one by one



Heather Hall, a curator at London Zoo, counting penguins yesterday for its annual census, as yet unfinished. In 1996 there were 2,850 birds, mammals and reptiles, 2,358 fish and 111,600 insects. Photograph: Chris Harris

## Birds choose Britain for European home

By JOHN VINCENT AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE chaffinch has emerged as the most prolific of Europe's bird species, according to a new survey. The distinctive bird with the white shoulder patches heads the list with 133 million breeding pairs.

That is 25 million more than its nearest rival, the house sparrow, which is followed by the great tit, and the robin and willow warbler in equal fourth. Nearly 45 per cent of Europe's chaffinches are in Britain, which is home to no fewer than 18 species which are more plentiful here than in any other European country.

Ornithologists were pleased to discover that there

are also more wrens, blue tits, dunmoks and sparrowhawks in Britain than anywhere else in Europe. Jeremy Greenwood, director of the British Trust for Ornithology, said yesterday: "Some of these results come as quite a shock. We expected to come up trumps with many seabirds — but to find that we seem to have more wrens, blue tits, dunmoks and sparrowhawks than any other European country is a surprise."

Chris Mead, a freelance researcher with the organisation, said: "Many of these birds have a wide distribution throughout Europe, and Brit-

### EUROPE

The top ten birds of Europe, with estimated number of breeding pairs and percentage in Britain:

Chaffinch	133,000,000	4.4
House sparrow	108,000,000	3.4
Great tit	84,000,000	2.0
Robin	78,000,000	5.8
Willow warbler	78,000,000	3.2
Starling	62,000,000	1.9
Yellowhammer	58,000,000	2.1
Chiffchaff	52,000,000	1.3
Blackbird	48,000,000	10.2
Goldcrest	45,000,000	1.4

The British and European statistics have been drawn from information in a new publication, *Atlas of European Breeding Birds*, edited by Ward J M Hagemeijer and Michael J Blair and published by I & A D Poyser.

ain accounts for only about one fortieth of the land mass of Europe.

"One reason why the birds

are found here so plentifully has to do with the warming effect of the Gulf Stream, which helps many birds to

stay in Britain all year round. Because of its strategic position on migration routes, Britain is also a very important over-wintering site," he said.

"It is also noticeable that the birds that do well here are not dependent on farmland, where suitable habitat has been much diminished by intensive farming practices."

The figures have been compiled after years of study by volunteers, including those from the trust, the Scottish Ornithologists Club and BirdWatch Ireland.

The list of 18 species found most plentifully in Britain features six seabirds, three waterbirds, two pigeons, several songbirds, the pheasant

and the sparrowhawk. For ten other seabirds, Britain boasts the second or third biggest populations, usually behind Iceland or Norway. Britain is second, behind Germany and Spain, for two birds of prey, providing a home for 14 per cent of kestrels and 16 per cent of peregrines.

Colin Bibby, of BirdLife International, said: "Bird conservation is a worldwide concern and the fate of several species depends largely on what we do in Britain. More than 10 per cent of the world's species are threatened. It is very important we should look after our own birds so that they are with us when our children grow up."

### BRITAIN

These are the 18 species which are more numerous in Britain than in any other European country. (Figures show the percentage of European total found in Britain and numbers of pairs in the British breeding population):

	%	Pairs
Scottish crossbill	100	600
Marx shearwater	77	235,000
Gannet	70	160,000
Great skua	58	7,900
Shag	44	39,000
Stock dove	42	240,000
Lesser black-backed gull	39	86,000
Pheasant	38	1,850,000
Wren	27	7,800,000
Mute swan	25	14,500
Shelduck	24	11,000
Moorhen	24	260,000
Woodpigeon	23	2,450,000
Herring gull	20	180,000
Blue tit	18	3,500,000
Dunmoko	14	2,100,000
Rock	12	950,000
Sparrowhawk	11	34,000

# SSSHH.

A sophisticated diesel should be serene and not heard.

# Woman helps to free lover who gave her Aids

By DANIEL MCGRODY

A CYPRIOT fisherman jailed for knowingly infecting his British girlfriend with Aids was pardoned yesterday after she wrote an emotional letter urging his immediate release. He would not have been freed without her intervention.

Janette Pink said last night: "I don't hate him and there is nothing to be gained by keeping him in prison, so I was happy to agree."

Her former lover, Pavlos Georgiou, 40, said: "It's wonderful to be free," as he walked through the gates of the Nicosia Central Prison after his unexpected inclusion in the traditional new year pardon from President Clerides.

Georgiou thanked Mrs Pink for her intervention during the past 48 hours that guaranteed his release. "I think she was probably unable to sleep during the past few months," he said. "My message to her is to meet soon."

Later he said: "I can't tell you how happy I am to be free. I'm with my family and kids whom I've missed so much. It's the first time I've seen my youngest boy, who's six, since I was in prison. Obviously, I'm thankful to Janette and will call her to wish her a happy new year and tell her that I hope I will be able to see her soon."

In August, Georgiou was sentenced to 15 months in jail in a landmark case on the island after Mrs Pink had said that he had not told her during their two-year relationship that he was HIV-positive.

Mrs Pink, 45, whose health has dramatically improved since being put on a new drug regime, said last night: "The Attorney-General contacted me and said that Pavlos could not be freed without my agreement. I thought about it and then sent a letter giving my assent."

"I did love him and I made my point last year in the



Pink, top, who became HIV-positive during her time with Georgiou



Georgiou, bottom, who was pardoned after his girlfriend's intervention

ship if he had been honest with me. Some of my own family, including my son, cannot bear to even talk about any of this, but I have to live with the consequences and so does he."

Mrs Pink said she would not attempt to contact Georgiou now that he was free. "We both have to get on with our lives. I wish him no animosity and I hope he enjoys a long life with his children. My only hope is that, after all the publicity, no woman will go near him and he will do nothing to harm anyone else."

Georgiou would normally have been due for release in May 1988.

A spokesman for the prison said: "It is customary for the President to give pardons at this time."

Georgiou, a fisherman from the coastal resort of Ayia Napa, had applied for early release on humanitarian grounds several weeks ago but received no answer.

He had tested HIV-positive in 1992 and had an affair with Mrs Pink, a divorced mother of two, from January 1994 until July 1996, when she was forced to return to Britain for medical treatment after developing Aids.

The court accepted her claim that Georgiou had concealed his illness from her, and had lied about the cause of his wife's death in August 1994. Georgiou had consistently rejected the claims.

Less than six months ago Mrs Pink weighed 5st and was close to death, but she has undergone a revitalisation which she has put down to a successful course of drugs and a positive outlook. She has gained 4st and is now strong enough to play with her granddaughter.

Her mother, Sheila Ruston, said: "At the moment she is quite well. We are keeping our fingers crossed and living day by day."



The British Battalion of the International Brigade in 1938. Their commander has questioned the role of Laurie Lee

# Critic says cigarette cast new light on Laurie Lee's war story

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

LAURIE LEE, who has been accused of making up his account of fighting in the Spanish Civil War, may have sealed his fate when he turned down a cigarette in Barcelona in 1937. It led to his name sticking in the minds of British veterans who fought for the republic. Lee, who died last year, gave a graphic account of fighting Franco's Fascists at the Battle of Teruel in *A Moment of War*, a volume of autobiography published in 1991. He said he killed a man in hand-to-hand fighting.

But the former commander of the British Battalion of the International Brigade, Bill Alexander, 87, said: "I have no argument with Laurie, but I would rather he had called his book a novel rather than autobiography. It didn't happen as he told it." The claim that Lee's account is

inaccurate was made in an article in *The Spectator* by Simon Courland, who was researching the Battle of Teruel and believes Lee did return to Spain in 1937.

Mr Alexander, who had dismissed Lee's book as fiction in a note to fellow veterans six years ago, said yesterday that he resented Lee's portrayal of the International Brigade as a bunch of "wined alcoholics and wife-beaters". He said: "If that was the case how were we able from July 1936 until we were sent home three years later to hold off Franco's fascists, the German Condor Legion and the Mussolinis?"

He recalled that Lee was staying with the journalist Bill Rust in Barcelona while he waited to sign up with the battalion. Rust had English cigarettes, "and all the young chaps used to go round to his



Lee pictured during the 1930s

flat in the afternoon and wait to be offered one.

"I was told by two people, both now dead, that this man who was Laurie Lee twice turned down the offer of a cigarette. It was such a remarkable thing that it glued

him in their minds." According to Rust, who is now dead, Lee was turned down for military service because he suffered from epilepsy, a condition his widow confirmed yesterday that the author had suffered from.

Lee's widow Cathy, who still lives in the Gloucestershire village of Stod, is angry and upset at the allegations and is convinced that her husband produced an accurate account. She said yesterday: "I have re-read the chapter and it clearly says he was on the edge of the Battle of Teruel with a rag-tag group of people and doesn't claim to have fought with the International Brigade."

"When we went back to Spain in the 1950s I was astonished by how many people greeted him as an old friend. After the publication of *A Moment of War* he was even offered citizenship by the Spanish Government."

# Set-aside farmland failing to help wildlife

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FORCING farmers to take part of their land out of food production under EU set-aside schemes has brought few benefits for wildlife, according to a new study. Farmers said they had little incentive to realise the conservation potential of fallow land.

In a study of 261 farms in England, ecologists at Liverpool University found that 1 per cent of a total of 13,176 acres set aside had been managed specifically to benefit wild plants and animals.

Farmers are encouraged to help wildlife on set-aside land, by sowing mixtures of grasses or non-food crops to provide cover for wintering birds, and delaying the cutting of grass to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds in the spring and early summer. The survey, in the *New Scientist*, reports that 90 per cent of farmers were sympathetic towards conservation, but were hindered by the inflexibility of set-aside rules and a lack of incentives.

Set-aside fields must be rotated each year or left for five years. Farmers are guaranteed compensation of £132 per acre, with no environmental conditions attached. Paul Neve, one of the researchers, said: "Many saw little point in putting money and effort into these habitats if, after five years, they would have to plough them up."

The set-aside scheme was introduced in 1992 to reduce a cereal surplus. Farmers were initially required to set aside 15 per cent of their land, since reduced to 5 per cent. Under the rules, they can grow non-food crops such as oilseed rape and linseed, and many found this more profitable than environmental schemes.

However, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "There is evidence that set-aside has improved winter food supplies and ground-nesting cover."



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# The man of iron who took it on the jaw

Nigel Hawkes reports on a dental discovery that fills a gap in history

ANTHROPOLOGISTS believe they may have discovered the first dental implant. The patient was a young man in the 1st or 2nd century. The tooth was made of wrought iron and it appears to have been hammered directly into his jaw.



Claudius brought his dentist to Britain

His operation was a complete success, although the pain around his lower face would have tested his mettle. The implant fitted and integrated solidly into the bone. X-ray examination shows no gaps around the tooth, which today would be taken as evidence of a successful implant, say Dr Eric Crubézy of the University of Toulouse and colleagues reporting in *Nature*. The skull was found in a necropolis at Chantambre, just south of Paris, where ancient Gauls — then part of the Roman Empire — placed their dead.

Pottery found close to the skeleton, and radiocarbon

dating of the bones, date the skull to the end of the first century AD or the beginning of the second. The iron tooth was used to replace an upper-right molar, and its neat fit suggests that it was modelled on the original tooth, and

made by a process of hot hammering and folding.

"The implant was probably set by impaction soon after the tooth loss," say the team. Iron is not the ideal material for an implant, but it would have worked better than a fibrous material such as wood, since integration with the bones is easier to achieve with non-fibrous materials. In addition, the rugged surface of the iron would have provided adequate adhesion.

The scientists guess that the man was fitted with his iron tooth at least a year before he died. It is thought that he had lost the molars on the left side and wanted to be able to chew at least on the right.

Dentistry is an ancient art. When the Emperor Claudius arrived in Britain in AD 43, he was accompanied by his surgeon, Serapionus Largus, who carried out dentistry. Excavations at Richborough, Kent, produced a small in-

strument, much like a modern dentist's probe, as a relic of the Roman occupation.

The first bridge goes back even further. A gold bridge designed to replace two incisors, and fitted with loops to connect it to surviving teeth, was found in a tomb in Tanagra, in Greece, dating to the 3rd century BC. Animal teeth and ivory were also used to create simple bridges.

False teeth came much later. The earliest were found in Switzerland and dated to the late 15th or early 16th century. They were made from the bones of an ox and were probably aesthetic rather than practical. The difficulty of producing a plate to carry dentures was not solved until the 18th century, when Alexis Duchâteau, an apothecary from Saint-Germain-en-Laye, near Paris, produced a set in porcelain which fitted him so well that he wore them for the rest of his life.



The skull, above, with a wrought-iron tooth protruding from the jaw. A close-up shows a break in the tooth, which is believed to have been dropped and repaired before surgery. Right, a warrior from ancient Gaul



# Nasa takes a shot towards colonising the Moon

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SPACE travel could be revolutionised if a Nasa mission which blasts off next week is successful in its search for water on the Moon.

Water would allow scientists to construct equipment and launch spacecraft from the Moon for a fraction of the price it costs to build and launch from Earth. The discovery of ice at its south pole could also lead to the Moon being colonised.

Bill Feldman, of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which has provided some of the instruments, said: "Water will support life as well as travel from the Moon to the planets. Besides sustaining life for Moon colonies, hydrogen from the ice can be extracted for rocket fuel."

"I am sure that there are people who would colonise the Moon once sufficient water is available. The Moon is one of the best environments you could possibly have for any number of scientific and commercial enterprises," he said.

The \$38 million *Lunar Prospector*, scheduled to leave Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Monday, has instruments able to detect gas emissions which may indicate areas of seismic activity. Maps of "moonquakes" would help colonists site buildings more safely.

The decision to launch the unmanned craft follows a joint Nasa and US Defence Depart-

ment lunar mission four years ago. The small *Clementine* craft's radar detected hints of water at the south pole.

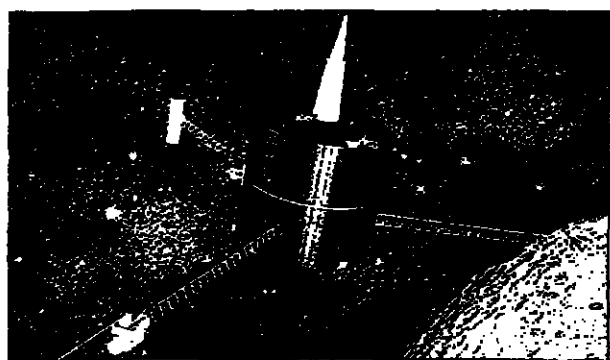
Scientists suspect water was deposited there by comet impacts. Comets have ice in their nuclei which, on hitting the Moon, may have first vaporised and then condensed at the poles.

The amount of water at the south pole will depend on the extent to which craters there remain in shadow. Some are thought to be in perpetual darkness at temperatures of around minus 210C, which would prevent the water evaporating.

The *Lunar Prospector*, which will be put into orbit by a new rocket, called *Athena II*, will take about 4½ days to reach the Moon, where it will go into a polar orbit and start its mapping mission 60 miles above the surface.

A neutron spectrometer will try to detect neutrons escaping from the surface, indicating if hydrogen is present. Scientists believe water could be detected within a few days. Another instrument will record gamma rays, giving clues to how and when the Moon formed.

"This is the highest science priority. These are the key data to understand the origin and evolution of the Moon," Alan Binder of Lockheed Martin, which made the *Lunar Prospector*, said.



The Lunar Prospector, which will search for water

# Painkiller hope in platypus poison

By NICK NUTTALL

A NEW generation of powerful painkillers could be developed from poisons produced by the duck-billed platypus, scientists believe.

The mammal produces a mixture of four toxins — which may be the most painful known — from spurs on its hind legs to defend its breeding area. Rosemary Martin, of the Australian National University in Canberra, says in *New Scientist* that the venom is unusual because it is not intended to kill or paralyse victims. "It seems designed as a deterrent," she said.

People who have been pricked by the spurs by mistake have reported pain-

ful sensations for several weeks. The scientists believe that, if they can find an antidote, they can produce new painkillers.

The team has isolated one of the chemicals and tested its protein on mice. The protein binds to channels in the membranes of nerve cells. The channels are activated by the body when people feel pain.

Greg de Plater, another member of the team, which disclosed its findings at the Physiological Society in Cambridge, said: "This is an example of a natural toxin acting directly on pain receptors. That has never been found in a venom before."

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سازمان چاپ

Papers released under 30-year rule reveal plan to break UN resolution

# Labour was tempted to sell arms to South Africa

By ADRIAN LEE

## FOREIGN POLICY

SENIOR members of Harold Wilson's Government were in favour of abandoning Labour Party policy and striking a £100 million arms deal with South Africa, according to papers released today at the Public Record Office.

The proposal, which would have raised vital export revenue when the British economy was in crisis, split the Cabinet. Minutes from its meetings in December 1967 show that George Brown, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Denis Healey, the Defence Secretary, believed the Government could not afford to refuse to supply naval weapons to the apartheid regime.

A deal would have contravened a United Nations resolution but they argued that Britain could no longer "act as the world's conscience". If Britain did not supply the weapons, France would. The minutes, published by

the record office in Kew, West London, under the 30-year rule, reveal that Wilson was undecided and tried to delay. To turn down the deal, with the promise of a further £300 million contract, would undermine the Government's commitment to exports, less than a month after the pound had been devalued. To accept the deal would undermine the Labour Party's moral credibility and risk outraging party supporters and the public.

Wilson said in Cabinet on December 15 that a deal would be "contrary to the principles for which the Government stood". He proposed a holding statement to the Commons, but was thwarted by press speculation about disunity. Two days later, the Cabinet was forced to decide and it was resolved that Britain should reject South Africa's money. Wilson said that a

short statement would be made in the Commons on December 18, in which Labour's commitment to the UN resolution would be asserted. It would add that the Cabinet was not divided. Wilson proposed a dramatic joint peace mission with the Soviet leader Aleksii Kosygin to end the Vietnam War, the documents show. The Prime Minister suggested that the two men should go together to Hanoi, the North Vietnamese capital.

At the same time, George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, and Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart, would fly to the United States in an attempt to bring the warring sides to the negotiating table.

The suggestions, made at an embassy reception in London during a visit by Kosygin in February 1967, seemed to have been treated with amusement

by the Russian leader. Brown, too, was sceptical. Wilson also tried to arrange a temporary truce between the Americans and the North Vietnamese while Kosygin was in Britain, but believed his efforts were undermined by a hardening American stance. He felt cheated of a much-needed foreign policy triumph.

The Government planned the evacuation of Hong Kong after the sacking of the British Mission in Beijing and Communist demonstrations in the colony.

As relations between China and Britain soured in the spring and summer of 1967, Donald Hopson, the British Ambassador in Beijing, warned London: "The day of reckoning has probably come nearer... China is in a very difficult and explosive mood."



# Voice of calm in troubled waters

A HUGE oil slick escaping from the stranded tanker *Torrey Canyon* after it ran aground off Land's End on March 19, posing what was called the "greatest peacetime threat to Britain".

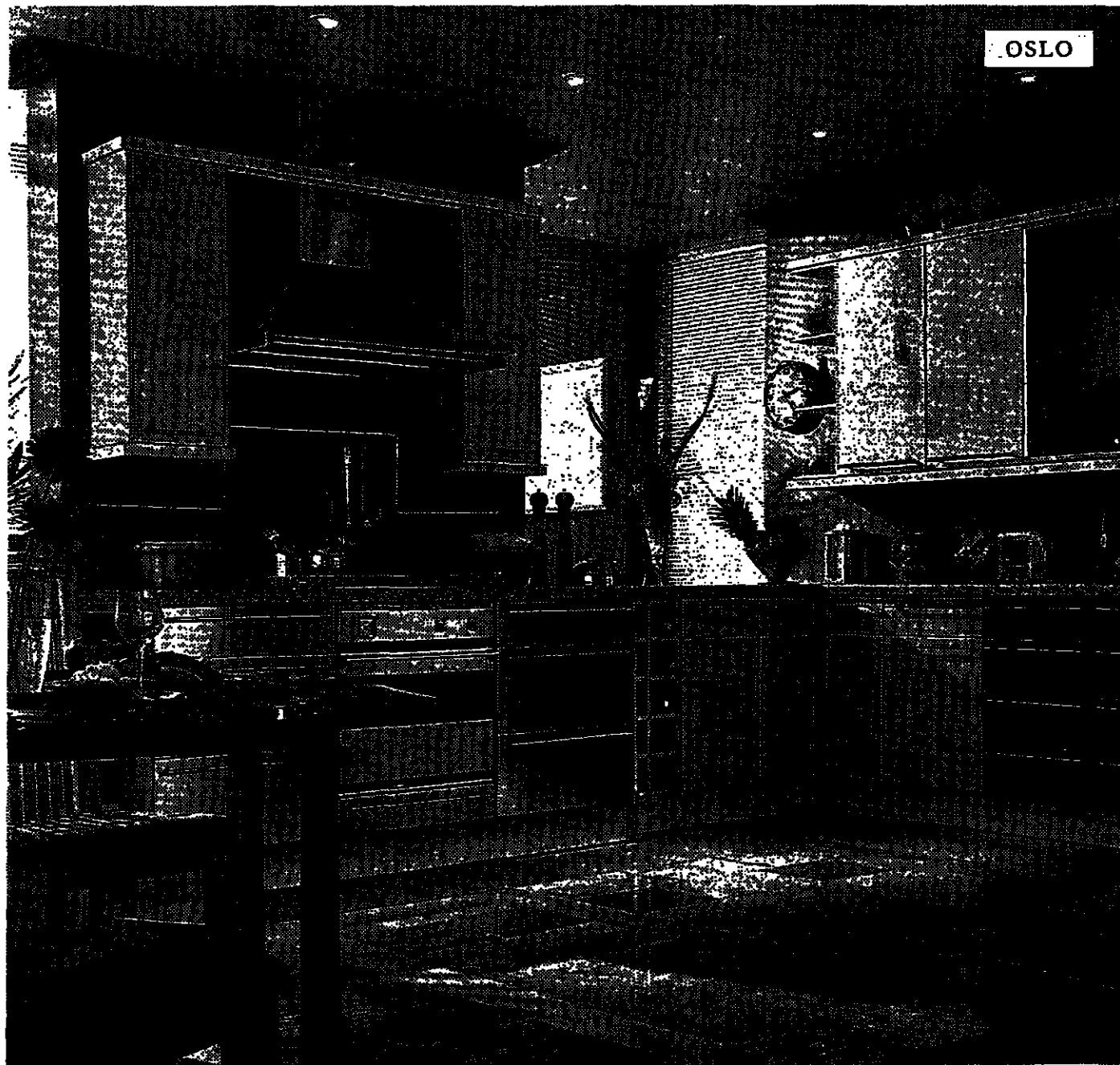
Cabinet papers on the disaster show Harold Wilson's recognition of the importance of positive press coverage. As hundreds of troops and civilian workers cleared up the pollution on the beaches, and aircraft sprayed detergent to break up the oil slicks at sea, a conversation

between Wilson and his Defence Secretary, Denis Healey, shows them focusing on media reaction. Notes of the conversation about a press conference on the spillage state: "[Healey] was a little worried about this. There had been a good press so far and it was important to hold this position."

The Prime Minister said he wasn't too worried about the press conference and, on balance, favoured it. It was important that the Press should say that the Government was doing the right thing before the oil reached any beaches.

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# Young typist who tried her hand at spying

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

## SECURITY

THE covert life of Helen Keenan, a young Cabinet Office typist who passed secrets about Rhodesia to her boyfriend, is revealed in the Public Record Office papers today. Her boyfriend was a double agent working for South Africa and Rhodesia.

Harold Wilson was concerned by the implications of such an amateur mole in his Government, and ordered a security analysis while her prosecution was in progress. Keenan, 20, was jailed for six months. Calls for random searches of Whitehall staff were rejected by the Prime Minister.

Keenan was from Halifax, West Yorkshire. After her mother died, she arrived in London looking for work and the good life. With excellent skills at shorthand and typing, she was snapped up for the Government's key pool of 29 typists who covered a 12-hour shift every weekday. Miss Keenan earned £110s a week and paid £2 10s to share a flat in Kensington with two other girls.

The Government office security manual said that 20-year-olds were "a prime target for espionage". However, the inquiry said: "Those who have responsibility for recruiting typists are left with too little choice for employment under the conditions and for the salaries offered."

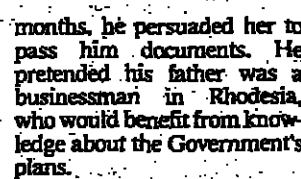
The official report by the Security Commission, headed by Lord Justice Winn, said: "It is plain that the change of surroundings and mode of life went to her head. She very soon began to lead a gay life and frequented a music and dancing club." She also began to associate with "undesirable characters".

At the club, she met Norman Blackburn. Within three months, he persuaded her to pass him documents. He pretended his father was a businessman in Rhodesia, who would benefit from knowledge about the Government's plans.

Miss Keenan received an official warning for lack of punctuality when she was "drowsy and lethargic" after late nights. In February and mid-March, she handed valuable information to Blackburn, who paid her £10.

British intelligence spotted the links with the South African and, on May 25, both were arrested by Special Branch. That day, Keenan was hoping to receive another £30 from Blackburn. In total, she had passed "three or four" documents to him, using a variety of methods to smuggle the papers out, such as making an extra carbon copy or putting sheets from her shorthand notebook into her handbag.

Sir Roger suggested that the typing pool would be better organised in a square room instead of a long, narrow one, that staff should reduce the number of copies made of documents, and that notebooks should be distinctively coloured, with numbered pages.



Wigg defended

# Shopped minister 'worked at home with secretary'

A COLONEL was curious when he spotted the Paymaster-General's limousine "pull up outside a department store (Adrian Lee writes). As he watched the minister pop inside with an attractive young woman, he scented scandal."

Over the coming weeks, he kept watch on the Army & Navy store, not far from George Wigg's offices at the Commons. Time and time again, the minister and his companion made the same trip as the chauffeur-driven car waited outside.

Finally, the unnamed colonel wrote to his MP, Sir Cyril Black, saying: "Mr Wigg gets out with his girlfriend and goes into the Army & Navy stores shopping and buying cakes etc. Today he even weighed himself."

Sir Cyril, the Tory MP for Wimbledon, passed on his constituent's concerns to the Prime Minister. He wrote: "The colonel is absolutely furious that Mr Wigg should use an official car for his private business." The colonel was, Sir Cyril said, a man of standing whose truthfulness could be relied upon.

The Prime Minister wrote back that the Paymaster-General was quite entitled to use the car for his personal use and, in any case, the shopping trips were on his way to work. "The lady was his private secretary, who frequently accompanies him to his home for the purposes of conducting official business. Your constituent would, therefore, be well advised to choose his words with care."

That, when on aeroplanes, trains or helicopters, he never carried secret papers, "even with the windows closed".

He also told the Cabinet Secretary to upbraid Richard Crossman, the Leader of the Commons, after receiving a report that, on several occasions, Crossman had travelled by train and "had read at a table in the dining car files and papers classified Secret, Confidential and Restricted".

According to M15, "an observer was able to read the titles of some of the files and papers".

Keenan: good life

# Secrets slipped out

IT WAS not a good year for security. A top-secret army document was lost when an officer opened a helicopter window to get some fresh air and the paper was sucked out, and a Cabinet minister was seen reading classified papers in public.

Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Baker was over Hampton Court when he lost the document, concerning manpower levels. It was never recovered; officials hoped it had fallen into a reservoir. Wilson commented

that, when on aeroplanes, trains or helicopters, he never carried secret papers, "even with the windows closed".

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According to M15, "an observer was able to read the titles of some of the files and papers".

# Army poised to end strike

## DOCKS DISPUTE

HAROLD WILSON'S Labour Government considered sending in troops to break the long-running Liverpool dock strike of 1967, according to papers released today.

Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour, told the Cabinet he believed that the Communist Party, "acting in concert with Trotskyist elements", was behind a growing campaign of intimidation and violence to enforce the stoppage. Gunter's comments reflected Wilson's own belief - inspired by M15 briefings - that Communist extremists were behind a wave of industrial unrest at the time.

control of events after Jack Jones, the Transport and General Workers' Union, was prevented from addressing a mass meeting. "The men had apparently been influenced by six dissident members of the unofficial strike committee who advised them not to accept a settlement reached with the employers," he said, according to a note of the meeting.

The papers show that Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary, had advised the Cabinet that arrangements had been drawn up for declaring an emergency and drafting

troops into the docks. Gunter said that the economic situation at the end of October had become so serious they should consider putting the plan into action.

"Although the practical effect of the introduction of troops would not be seen until they had become accustomed to handling the dockside equipment their presence might bring home to the men that a continuation of the strike would not procure further concessions and hence result in a drift back to work," he said.

In the event, the plan was not carried out as, days after Gunter's warning, the strikers returned to work.



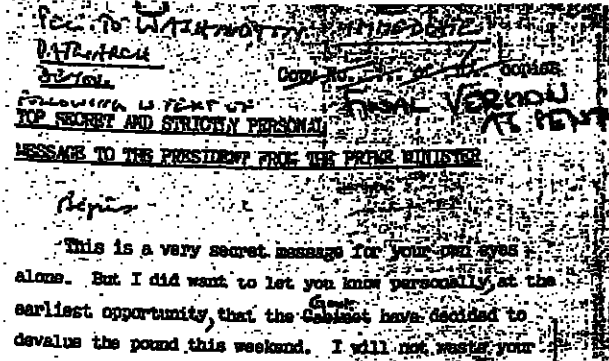
# How Wilson kept 'pound in your pocket' plan a secret

BY ADRIAN LEE

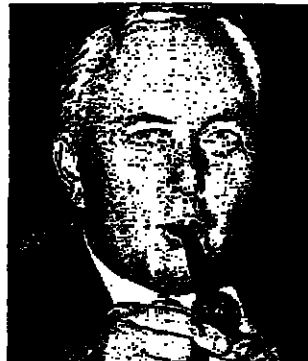
HAROLD WILSON and his Cabinet mounted an extraordinary operation, codenamed Patriarch, to keep the devaluation of the pound in November 1967 a secret. The move to stave off economic collapse, which the Government had struggled to avoid since taking office three years earlier, resulted in threats from James Callaghan, the Chancellor, to quit the Government.

Official papers, released to the Public Record Office today under the 30-year rule, show how the Government dispatched Bank of England envoys around the world, giving friendly countries last-minute warning of its intention to devalue the pound by more than 14 per cent. Others were told by secret telegram. Although the papers show that devaluation was discussed in Cabinet from April, all those involved were sworn to silence with warnings of "grave consequences". Civil servants and private secretaries were not told.

Leaks might result in a run



Wilson's top-secret telegram informing the President about the decision to devalue

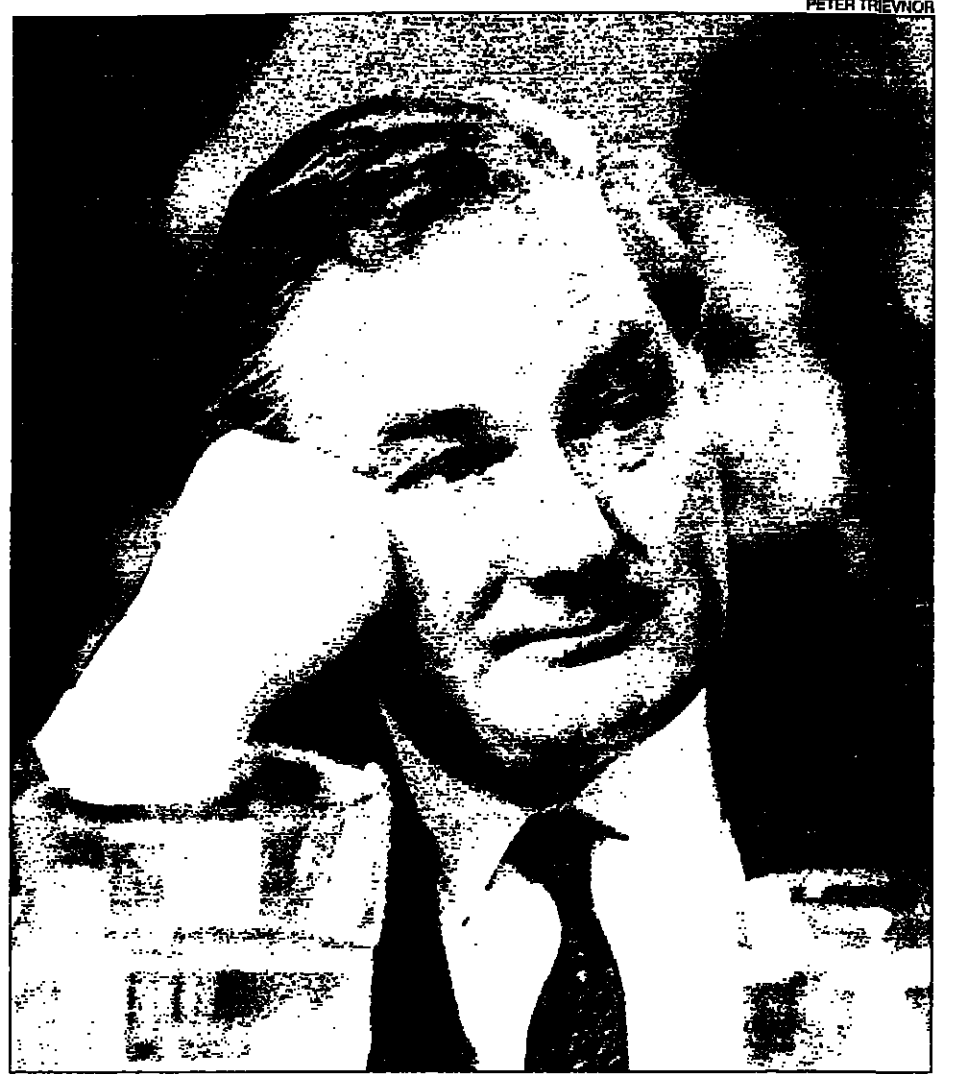


Prime Minister, that he feared Britain's international standing would be damaged. It was already beset by rising unemployment and labour unrest.

Wilson endured opposition from George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, over the level of devaluation and a four-page rebuke from Leslie O'Brien, Governor of the Bank of England, for not going far enough. The spending cuts were half what was required, O'Brien said.

The move was also a personal defeat for Callaghan, who had pledged previously to countries holding sterling reserves that Britain would not devalue. He warned the Prime Minister that he would consider resigning and was told by Wilson that it was a matter for him. Ten days after devaluation, Callaghan became Home Secretary and was replaced by Roy Jenkins.

Wilson ordered colleagues to appear optimistic and united. The oil crisis in the Middle East was to be largely blamed for devaluation and the balance-of-payments deficit of £600 million.



James Callaghan, the Chancellor, threatened to quit and was replaced by Roy Jenkins

on the pound as other countries sought to sell their sterling reserves. The papers show that ministers discussed how television broadcasts would be interrupted at 10pm on November 18 to break the news. On BBC1, the Saturday thriller might have to be replaced at short notice, to accommodate the announcement. It must coincide with a time when all world financial markets were closed. BBC2 viewers would be told before *The Clancy Brothers*. The announcement was the

## DEVALUATION

occasion for one of Wilson's best-known sayings when he declared that it did not affect the pound in your pocket. He told the nation that devaluation did not imply "that the pound here in Britain in your pocket, or purse or in your bank, has been devalued". The French were suspected of deliberately leaking incorrect details. The Cabinet noted that, before the official statement, French hotels refused to

accept sterling. In a long telegram to Lyndon Johnson, the US President, Wilson likened the crisis to a toothache. In the past, he wrote, "each of us [members of the Cabinet] has shrunk from having the tooth removed". Devaluation, accompanied by tax rises, spending cuts, an interest-rate rise and other stringent measures would give Britain the chance of a fresh start. But he confessed to Johnson that the measures were "exceptionally ghoulish" and, to Lester Pearson, the Canadian

# Prime Minister sought to censor Cabinet diaries

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

## MEMOIRS

THE Prime Minister's obsession with leaks and spies and the need for firm control over his Cabinet led to new rules for ministers keeping diaries.

In 1967, with at least three of the Cabinet working on memoirs, and the economy in trouble and difficulties abroad, Wilson clearly feared that the ministers might undermine his reputation and mutual trust within the Government. At the time, Richard Crossman, the Lord President and Leader of the Commons; Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Technology Minister; and Barbara Castle, the Transport Minister, kept political diaries. Other ministers were incensed by their behaviour and at one Cabinet meeting in January 1967 George Brown, Foreign Secretary, called for action against the authors because "issues of propriety and collective responsibility might be involved".

Crossman defended his position, admitting that before being appointed a minister he had signed a contract to write a book of memoirs and, on his retirement, a study of Government and Parliament. Since he had become a minister, his publishers had been acquired by the Thomson Group and he had had to renegotiate his contract. Cabinet papers disclose that he used this opportunity to ensure he would be under no obligation to write anything for five years after leaving office.

Wilson, however, insisted that any "purely private or personal recording" of Cab-

net discussions was to be deprecated. He was also concerned that any minister who signed a commercial contract could be liable to improper pressure.

A review of the issue by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Gardiner, divided ministers. There was opposition to moves for the Cabinet Secretary to judge their works and to force deletions or amendments that could be deemed harmful.

Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary, told the Cabinet there was no alternative "to relying on the integrity and good judgment of ministers". He believed that, in most cases, advice from the Cabinet Secretary would be accepted, "but a former minister should be free, if he thought the advice oppressive, to publish and to accept the risk there might be legal proceedings".

Jenkins also considered that the harm done by political autobiographies could be

overestimated: "An author who writes from malice serves to condemn himself rather than to damage the reputation of his victim."

The Home Secretary accepted that diarists in the Government could be security risks — ministers seldom had secure facilities to keep the diary and typists might not be aware of the Official Secrets Act.

Wilson also ordered his ministers to cut down on their trips and where possible to leave civil servants at home. At one Cabinet meeting he complained that delegations to overseas conferences were unnecessarily large.

He also told ministers to stop packing their officials onto Whitehall committees and said he was disturbed that some departments were sending as many as four officials to routine meetings.

Wilson warned the Cabinet members to be punctual for meetings and give seven days' notice of any subject to be raised. If ministers lost out in Cabinet committee debates they should not attempt to make their case before the full Cabinet unless the committee chairman agreed.

The Prime Minister was most vehement on leaks — "premature disclosures were always discreditable and could on occasion be damaging". An investigation by the Lord Chancellor into apparent government leaks showed that most turned out to be informed guesses by experienced journalists. Wilson, however, insisted on rules to limit copies of secret papers and to keep tighter checks on the movement of documents.



Crossman: renegotiated contract with publisher

# Cabinet told to remove Brown if Christmas plot took shape

WILSON hatched a plot with his closest allies to remove George Brown as Deputy Prime Minister as he stepped out of line while the PM was in Australia over Christmas. Wilson was convinced that Brown, the Foreign Secretary, would attempt to destabilise the Government.

Brown had mounted a robust attack against the policy of hanking arms sales to South Africa. Besides threatening resignation, Wilson feared that his deputy might leak documents to the press. On December 20, Wilson wrote a "top secret and strictly personal" letter to Michael Stewart, First Secretary of State, outlining what should happen "if the Foreign Secre-

## IN-FIGHTING

tary should take action which would make it impossible for him to be in control of the Government in my absence."

Richard Crossman, Lord President and Leader of the Commons, Sir Burke Trend, Cabinet Secretary, and the Chancellor, Roy Jenkins, had been warned by Wilson "there might be trouble". He told Stewart: "You have my authority to take any action in my name you consider right."

"You will be aware that no one can resign from the Government except on the basis of a submission to the Queen. But any public declaration of any intention to resign will be

dealt with by me by a public statement wherever I am. It must be taken by you as invalidating his ability to act. From the moment such a statement were made, you should take over."

Leaking secret documents "would of course be a gross breach of the Official Secrets Act and the Privy Counsellors' Oath and I should want to know about it right away. In these circumstances, even though you would not be in a position to take over responsibility of the Government, you should consult the Cabinet Secretary."

Michael Palliser, a private secretary to Wilson, later noted: "There has been no need for any action."

# Another boring year in Austria

BY OUR WHITEHALL EDITOR

## DIPLOMACY

LIFE was running a little too smoothly for Sir Anthony Rumbold, Britain's Ambassador to Austria. While his Foreign Office contemporaries were caught up in crucial events around the world, he could not hide the feeling that his posting was well, really rather boring.

His report to his superiors in London concluded that Austria had "a dull year", and that the people were "superficial", and that the qualities of the Austrian Chancellor, Dr Klaus, were "those which in England would be expected only of the chairman of a county council".

Austria may have been considered an idyll to many Britons who had seen *The Sound of Music*, but Sir Anthony felt "It has not been a brilliant year for Austria. The economy has stagnated, reforms have been neglected and there have been

more failures than successes in the field of foreign affairs. On the other hand, there have been no dramatic reversals of fortune or natural disasters of any kind."

"Since the Austrians are much addicted to private pleasures and, unlike the modern English, are not inclined to worry much about the role of their country in the world, they have been as happy as they usually are, particularly as the summer was a fine one. The administration has done nothing discreditable but nothing very creditable either. Nobody in the leadership seems to have decided what best to do. It seems that in Austria decisions are only taken with reluctance and after repetitive consultation, bickering and delay."

The diplomat, an Old Etonian who

had previously served as principal private secretary to Sir Anthony Eden when he was Foreign Secretary in the 1950s, added: "Relations have remained fundamentally friendly, but the friendliness has received no striking expression."

"In considering how to cajole Austrians (assuming that we want to) it is worth remembering that, being themselves rather superficial people, they can be induced more easily than most into thinking favourably of a foreign country where leading representatives take trouble to pay attention to them. They have an insatiable appetite for celebrations, parties and visits."

Sir Anthony died in 1983, aged 72. Since his death, some espionage writers have named him among possible suspects as the leader of an Oxford ring of Soviet spies. The allegations were dismissed.

## IN BRIEF

### Warning on 'red' au pairs

Harold Wilson ordered all his ministers to declare whether they employed au pairs from communist countries. His office wrote to Peter Shore, the Technology Minister, ordering him to replace his Yugoslav au pair within three months. Shore replied that the woman had applied for a hospital job, "so the problem should shortly solve itself".

### Mary's marks

A play lampooning the Government was censored at the request of some of those depicted, including Wilson's wife, Mrs Wilson's Diary, based on a column in *Private Eye*, had already been censored by the Lord Chancellor.

### Prince's plea

The Prince of Wales, as head boy at Gordonstoun, asked Wilson for a school talk by a Cabinet minister. Michael Stewart, First Secretary of State, was sent. Wilson's office recommended he avoid one of the Prince's topics, church-state reform.

### Smoke screen

Fidel Castro sent two boxes of cigars to Wilson and Lord Walston, a junior foreign minister. To avoid upsetting the Americans or encouraging Cuban propaganda, no telegram of thanks was sent. Wilson gave his cigars to Labour's hospitality fund.

### Boom and bust

Labour tried to scrap its deal with France to build Concorde, taking legal advice on using the noise created by the aircraft's supersonic boom as an excuse. The legal costs of pulling out proved higher than the £600m cost of pressing on.

### Idea scuttled

Civil servants considered easing the housing problem by using the liners *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth* when Canard announced that they were being taken out of service. However, the cost of converting them was said to be prohibitive.

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# Havana's defecting star makes pitch for US riches

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A CUBAN baseball star, who abandoned his 16-a-month job and defected by fleeing the island on a raft with his wife and five friends, could soon be a multimillionaire according to American sports analysts and agents.

Following in the footsteps of his half-brother who defected two years ago, Orlando "the Duke" Hernández, who is regarded as one of Cuba's finest players, was yesterday seeking political asylum in a Bahamas detention centre after being detained by the Coast Guard.

His younger half-brother, Liván, 22, was given a \$4.5 million (£2.7 million) contract with the Florida Marlins after his defection in 1995. Last year the Miami-based Marlins won the World Series and he was voted star of the game.

Orlando Hernández's entry to the US could be hampered by a recent agreement between the Bahamas and Cuba to return anyone who leaves the Communist-ruled island illegally. But his great baseball talent, as well as a history of political problems in Cuba, is likely to help his case.

Before his defection on Tuesday, Orlando, 30, was a physiotherapist in Havana's psychiatric hospital, where he earned about \$10 a month. That was part punishment for his alleged involvement in a scheme to help other athletes to defect. Despite being the country's top pitcher for almost a decade, he was banned from the sport in 1996 with two other national team players.

In the decade that Hernández was a star in the national squad, Cuba dominated world amateur baseball, and was undefeated in international competition. In 1996 Cuba beat both its top rivals, Japan and the United States, to win the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics.

After a steady stream of defections from President Castro's rule in the past five years — more than a dozen leading players have abandoned both team and country — Cuba's reign as baseball champions came to a humiliating end in August when the national team was thrashed by Japan 11-2 in the Intercontinental Cup in Spain. The defeat is widely referred to in Cuba as "the disaster in Barcelona".

Since then the national baseball federation has been in the process of reorganisation, with the dismissal of several coaches and staff. The Sports Minister was also replaced. "Someone had to be made to accept responsibility for the disaster," said Milton Jamail, a University of Texas political scientist who is writing a book about Cuban baseball.

Hernández's defection was hardly a surprise, Mr Jamail said. After his ban, "the Duke" admitted to being depressed about being unable to play, but insisted that he was innocent and continued to hope the ban would be revoked. When the bidding for his talents begins, Mr Jamail said Hernández's absence from pitching for more than a year because of the ban could deflate his value. "But he is still a good pitcher with a good prospect of playing at the major league level," he said.



Liván Hernández, the Florida Marlins pitcher. His half-brother and fellow baseball star, Orlando, has fled Cuba and hopes to join him in the US

## Brazilian inmates 'to free hostages'

Rio de Janeiro: Mutinous inmates, who have held more than 700 hostages in an overcrowded jail in São Paulo state since Sunday, agreed yesterday to free their captives in return for a transfer to another prison (Gabriella Gazzini writes).

The stand-off appeared to be ending last night when inmates released about 15 women and 20 children, who walked out of the prison, many weeping and clearly exhausted, to the cheers of waiting relatives. It was not immediately clear when further hostages would be released.

The hostages at the Sorocaba penitentiary are mostly relatives of prison inmates, including 230 children, 38 of whom are babies, and 368 women and 88 men. They also include 17 prison guards who have been locked in a cell with grenades attached to their bodies.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Globe 'grew more dangerous in 1997'

Washington: A breakdown of law and order in Albania, civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and renewed Muslim rebellion in the Philippines all helped to make the world slightly more dangerous in 1997, a research group said. But America was dropped from the list of "world conflict areas", sharply reduced crime rates eliminating it for the first time in six years.

"We're not a world at peace, we're a world in conflict, and people have to be proactive to promote peace," said Andy Messing Jr, executive director of the National Defence Council Foundation, which tallies all instances of hostilities, including criminal activities, that result in regional instability. (AP)

## Aegean tense for war games

Athens: Tension between Greece and Turkey over sovereignty in the Aegean is expected to worsen as Turkish naval and air force units start three weeks of manoeuvres tomorrow (John Carr writes). The Greek Government believes that after Turkey's hope for closer ties with the European Union was rebuffed — partly at Greek instigation — the military establishment in Ankara could be out to test Greek resolve in its scattered Aegean domain. Hundreds of barren islets, symbolic of national pride on both sides, are in dispute. One in particular, Kalogeri, could become the focus of tension as it lies in the path of the manoeuvres.

## Jet's turbulence fall revised

Washington: The United Airlines 747 that was severely buffeted by turbulence over the Pacific on Sunday plummeted only 100 ft, not 1,000 ft as the crew reported, according to analysis of the flight data recorder by the National Transportation Safety Board here (Ian Brodie writes). The recorder showed that the plane was first thrust upwards for six seconds at nearly twice the force of gravity, followed by a sharp downward push that flung passengers and crew to the ceiling. One woman was killed and 102 other people injured.

## Former king names heir



Bucharest: Romania's exiled King has named his eldest daughter Margareta, left, as his heir, emphasising in a statement that her future lay in the hands of the people. Former King Michael, 76, who was forced to abdicate in 1948, said: "I would like my daughter Margareta to succeed me in all my duties and privileges... I leave my fate and hers, as ever, in the hands of the Romanian people." He has never recognised the 1991 republican Constitution. (AFP)

## Iran hospital barter twins

Tehran: An Iranian hospital has threatened to send baby twins to a state orphanage because their parents are unable to pay the remaining £250 in a total hospital bill of about £625, according to a report in Salam yesterday. The hospital in Tehran has given the impoverished parents a deadline of today to reclaim the twins, who were born 23 days ago, but the father says he does not have the money. Newspaper staff contacted the hospital but were told not to interfere. (AFP)

## China aids snowbound Tibet

Beijing: China has mounted a massive relief operation in Tibet to cope with record snowfalls that have killed livestock and threatened nomadic herders in the remote region. Chinese regional governments are sending food, clothing and fuel to areas that have been hit by almost constant snowfall since September. About 50,000 Tibetans have been affected by the snowstorms, but no deaths had been reported. (Reuters)

## New balloon record attempt

New York: Steve Fossett, right, the American adventurer, was due to take off last night from St Louis, Missouri, in an attempt to circumnavigate the world in a hot-air balloon (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Mr Fossett, a millionaire, has previously made two failed attempts. Although his last effort was aborted when he was forced to land in a wheat field in central India, he did establish the record for the most time spent in an aerial balloon: six days, two hours and 44 minutes.



## Papuan drought kills 70

Port Moresby: The worst drought to hit Papua New Guinea in 50 years has left at least 70 people dead and recent rains have offered only slight relief, officials said. Most deaths were from water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and dysentery, a health official said. The drought has hindered mining, and the country's coffee crop could be cut by half. (Reuters)

## Mir the merrier for 1998

Moscow: Cosmonauts on the Mir space station raised a plastic bottle of champagne to toast the new year. The three-man crew did not dwell on the station's troubled 1997, but exchanged greetings via a mission control video link and showed off a small imitation fir tree decorated with silver streamers. (Reuters)

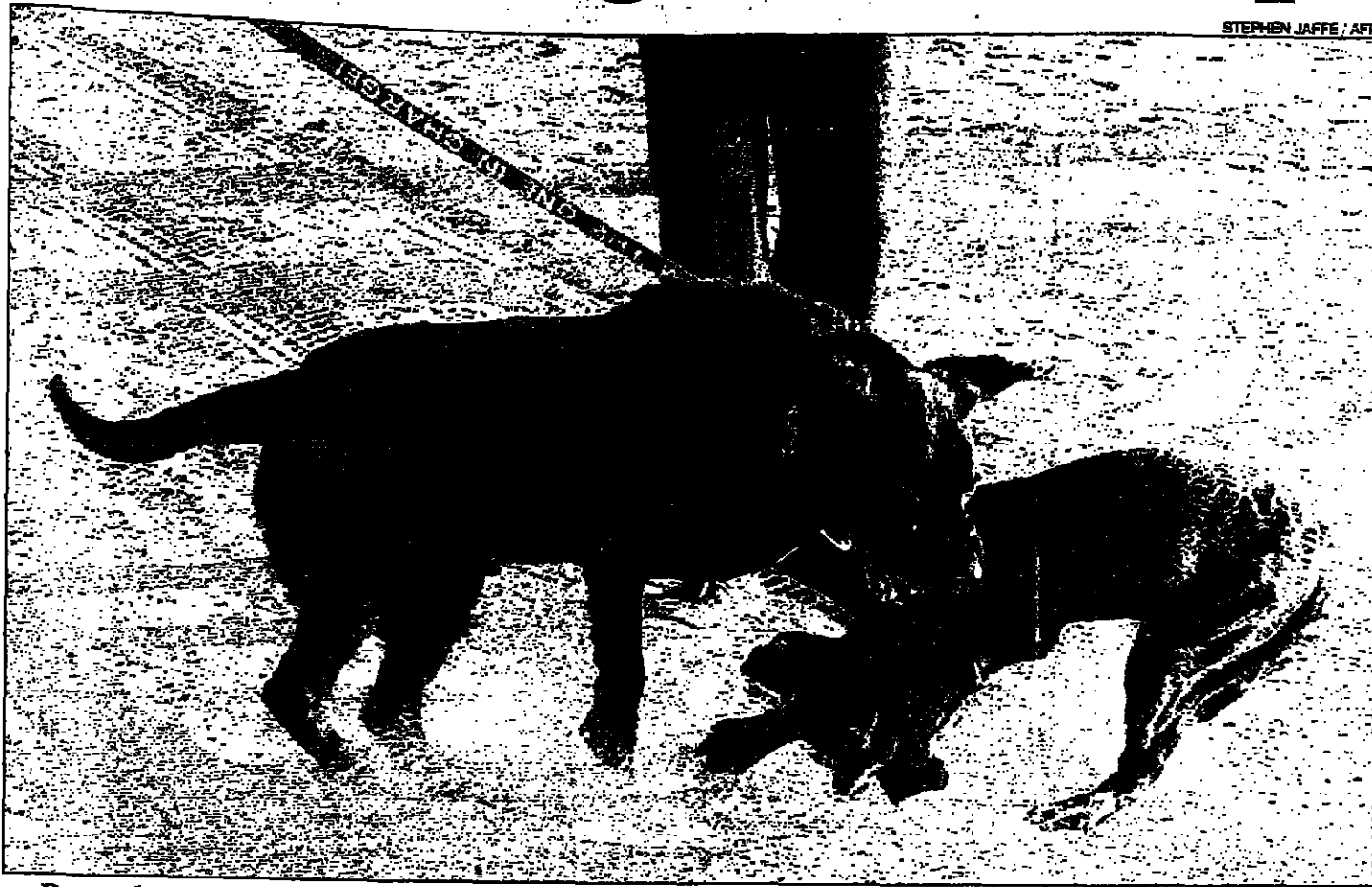


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# First Dog learns to play the underdog



Dog eat dog: President Clinton's labrador pup, Buddy, gets a nip on the neck on Hilton Head island, South Carolina yesterday

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S new pup, Buddy, learnt an important lesson yesterday: approach other dogs with caution, especially bigger ones.

The President's chocolate Labrador pup scampered up to an older, larger dog after a run along the beach on Hilton Head island, South Carolina. The second dog was not amused. It snapped back, grabbing Buddy's neck in its mouth but not clamping down.

Their masters reacted as dog owners always do in such incidents. Each made a grab for his own dog, amid muttered apologies. Stephen Jaffe, who photographed the episode, said: "The picture looks more serious than it was. Buddy just wanted to be playful. The other dog wasn't having any of it." Earlier, Buddy had stolen the show as the Clinton family arrived for their annual New Year retreat among the elite. Mr Clinton proudly carried his pup off Air Force One and walked it around the airstrip on a red leash bearing the words: "I'm the one in charge."

As if to underscore that claim, Buddy dragged Mr Clinton across the tarmac to some grass and then barked at climbing aboard a helicopter. "Buddy's first plane ride and he's a happy little camper," Mr Clinton told reporters.

Perhaps Buddy was pleased to be away from Socks, the Clintons' cat, left behind in the White House. Mr

**President Clinton's pup stole the show as the elite gathered for New Year's Eve**  
**Ian Brodie writes**

Clinton admitted he had not reconciled the two pets but was working on it. "It's my first project when I get back," he said.

Buddy was presented with a blue name tag showing that the First Pup was a first-time guest at the Renaissance gathering on the resort island of Hilton Head. The Clintons have attended this invitation-only conference of accomplished achievers since 1984 and have seen it grow from 60 families to 500. In the old days the group was small enough to do things together, Mr Clinton said, but now "it's way too big".

The syllabus is daunting. Participants can choose among a mind-numbing 352 panel discussions ranging from such issues as war crimes to "What My Spouse is Wrong About". Any misgivings Mr Clinton might express about Hillary, or she about him, would be strictly off the record.

In fact, Mr Clinton is at least as

attentive, if not more so, to Hilton Head's superb golf links as he is to the discussion groups. Unlike his dog, Mr Clinton is the only guest not required to wear a name tag. Last year Barbra Streisand reportedly refused to display hers at all times as requested, and this year she is not attending. Guests include Cabinet members, academics, clerics, Nobel scientists, military officers, authors and a handful of journalists who are sworn not to report what they see and hear.

The list tends to be weighted towards Mr Clinton's fellow Democrats, but the views of conservatives will be represented by Arianna Huffington, the pundit and author who once helped to organise a Republican alternative to the Renaissance Weekend. The Renaissance idea was started by Philip Lader, now US Ambassador to Britain, and his wife, Linda, as "a family retreat of innovative leaders for personal and national renewal". It is often mocked by those who are not invited. The *Washington Post* described the event as "urbane renewal".

As they did a year ago, the Clintons plan to fly today to St Thomas in the US Virgin Islands for three days of sea and sand. The Sand Dollar villa, where the Clintons will stay on St Thomas, usually has a strict "No Pets" policy, but this will be waived for Buddy.



Buddy is hugged by his master after a walk yesterday

## Iran leader plans charm offensive on American TV

By IAN BRODIE

IRAN'S President will speak to the American people in a television interview next week in his latest move to ease tensions between the two countries after nearly 20 years of enmity.

Clinton administration officials responded yesterday by indicating a readiness for dialogue. They emphasised, however, that Iran must be prepared to discuss three issues of concern - its support for terrorism, its opposition to the Middle East peace process and its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

President Khatami, who took office in August, will appear on CNN around the middle of the week, the network confirmed. This is a striking departure from years of mutual hostility and it follows Mr Khatami's call in mid-December for a "thoughtful dialogue" with the "great people and nation of America", and his talk of "detente in diplomatic policy" towards the US Government.

Even a slight degree of amiability between Iran and the US would amount to a tectonic shift in the Middle East. Americans have never forgiven Iranians for holding 52 hostages from the US Embassy for 444 days after the fall of the Shah in 1979. Washington imposes stringent economic sanctions on

Iran and is threatening to extend them to foreign companies doing business with Tehran.

President Clinton has said he would "like nothing better" than to start discussions, but they must be open and not a repetition of the cloak-and-dagger dealings that fell apart so disastrously for President Reagan 11 years ago.

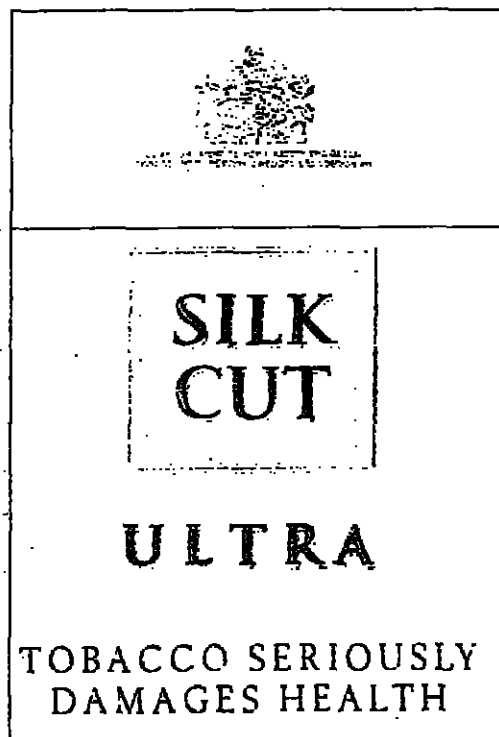
The Americans would insist on assurances that whoever represents Iran must speak with the full authority of the Government, meaning that any initiative by Mr Khatami must also have the backing of the Islamic hardliners led by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other religious figures.

An administration official said yesterday: "We certainly hope to have a dialogue, but we're looking for indications of change, not just rhetoric. It's still too early to know if there is real change."

Washington has just received a sharp reminder of Tehran's continued military ambitions with new CIA reports that Iranian engineers conducted eight engine tests during 1997 for a new generation of medium-range ballistic missiles. For the first time, Iran would be able to attack Israel, the Gulf states and much of Saudi Arabia with conventional, biological or chemical warheads.

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# New head of state signals Pakistan theocracy

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

PAKISTANI society appears certain to take on a more conservative Islamic tone with the election as President of Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, an arch-conservative Islamist and a controversial former Supreme Court judge.

A nominee of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, Mr Tarar swept the poll, defeating Aftab Mirani, the opposition Pakistan People's Party candidate, by a huge margin.

Mr Tarar was an active member of an extremist religious organisation known as Majlis-Ahbar-i-Islam before being appointed a session judge in 1964. The organisation favoured the imposition of strict Islamic laws. He was appointed a judge of the Lahore High Court by the military Government of General Muhammad Zia ul-Haq and later became Chief Justice of the Lahore court. In 1990 he was elevated to the Supreme Court.

Mr Tarar supports the establishment of a strict theocratic society. His strong anti-minority views and hostility to women's rights have provoked intense controversy.

In one ruling, he ordered the amputation of the hands and feet of a convict involved in a robbery case and he provoked strong protests from human rights activists when he called a rape victim a liar. He openly

opposes Pakistani family law which gives women the right to divorce and the right to seek custody of their children.

The post of President fell vacant when Farooq Leghari was forced to resign on December 2, after a bitter power struggle with Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister. Mr Tarar's election further consolidates Mr Sharif's hold on the country's power structure.

The success of Mr Tarar may be a personal victory for Mr Sharif but it is bad news for Pakistani women, religious minorities and liberal sections of society.

"The ascendancy of an extremist to the presidency may mark the advent of creeping fundamentalism in Pakistan," said Maleeha Lodhi, editor of an English-language national newspaper, *The News*.

As a Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court in 1987, Mr Tarar refused to grant bail to a lawyer belonging to a minority Qadiani sect who was accused of blasphemy because he had worn an amulet inscribed with Koranic verses. The Qadianis were declared infidels by the Pakistani Government in 1974.

Mr Tarar, who retired as a Supreme Court judge in 1994, became a close aide of Mr Sharif and was elected to the Senate in March 1997. Many believe that he was awarded



The newly elected President Tarar: favours the imposition of strict Islamic law

the seat as a reward for giving a series of judgments that favoured Mr Sharif.

He earned the gratitude of the Prime Minister when he allegedly engineered a split in the Supreme Court during the conflict with Sajjad Ali Shah, the ousted Chief Justice. He organised a coup against Mr Justice Shah by wooing the majority of the Supreme Court

judges to the side of the Government.

His nomination as a presidential candidate of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League came as a shock and created resentment among more liberal party members. His candidature was rejected by the election commissioner after Mr Tarar ridiculed Mr Justice Shah. The decision

was temporarily stayed by the Lahore High Court and he was allowed to contest the election. The court gives its final verdict on the case later this month.

The election of Mr Tarar who, like Mr Sharif, also comes from Punjab, marks the first time that both President and Prime Minister are from the same province.

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# Jews attack Orthodox school

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

PETROL BOMBS were thrown at a theological school in the latest clash between secular and religious Jews in Israel.

Police arrived yesterday at Neveh Rotem, in the northern town of Pardes Hana, and found three caravans burning. They had served as the temporary residence of an ultra-Orthodox school. Prayer shawls and religious books were reduced to ashes, prompting Refael Boublil, the school's rabbi, to accuse secular Jews.

"In recent weeks, we have refrained from reacting to the provocation, and look where we reached," he said. "Acts such as these were perpetrated by the Gentiles when they persecuted Jews." He added: "This is Neveh Rotem's Kristallnacht" — a reference to the 1938 notorious Nazi

rampage in Germany. Eli Suissa, the Interior Minister, yesterday proposed erecting fences to separate residential areas of secular and ultra-Orthodox Jews in Pardes Hana. Speaking during a visit to the town, he blamed inflammatory statements by the left-wing Meretz party for the tensions.

A committee representing secular residents rejected the compromise, declaring that the school was established illegally and denied involvement in the arson attack. Yossi Sarid, the Meretz leader, said that to accept Mr Suissa's proposal would reward the ultra-Orthodox for "aggression". Police said there had been a dispute since secular Israelis moved into the neighbourhood and discovered that their homes were located next to the ultra-Orthodox school.

Rising tension between secular and religious Israelis has been reflected in a number of violent incidents, including

clashes in Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street, which the ultra-Orthodox say should be closed on the Jewish Sabbath. Hostility is expected to intensify after the passage of the budget.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, was facing strong criticism after bowing to the demands of religious parties for more funding. He made the concessions after members of his coalition threatened to vote against the budget and even to bring down the Government.

Torture claim: Shin Bet, the secret police, yesterday admitted publicly for the first time to interrogation methods of Arab prisoners that Palestinians claim are torture. During a high court appeal by an alleged activist from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Shin Bet admitted to depriving prisoners of sleep for long periods, covering their heads with sacks and forcing them to listen to loud music.

# Scientology regained tax perk in \$12m deal

FROM TUNIKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE Church of Scientology paid \$12.5 million (£7.8 million) to the federal Government in 1993 in a settlement with the Internal Revenue Service that secured tax-exempt status for the organisation, it was revealed here.

Details were reported for the first time in Tuesday's edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. Mark Rathbun, director of the church's Religious Technology Centre, said yesterday: "The bottom line is, the document is a peace treaty. The war is over."

The war was waged for 26 years between the Scientologists and the IRS, after the main church was stripped of its tax-exempt status in 1967.

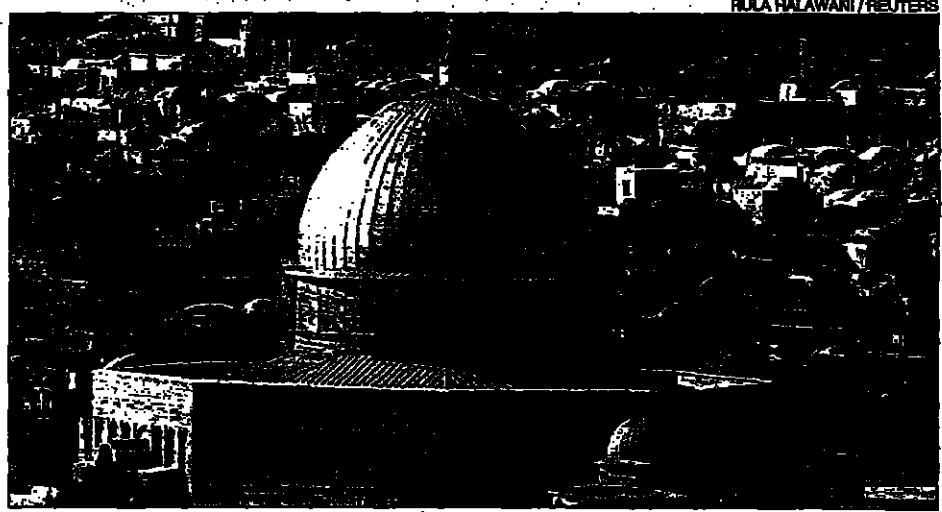
The church, which was established in 1954 by the late L. Ron Hubbard, a controversial science fiction writer, had secured its tax-exempt status in 1957. But IRS concerns that the church was using its status not for charitable purposes but to enrich Hubbard led to the ending of tax privileges ten years later.

A long series of lawsuits followed. Eventually, in 1993, the IRS sued for peace. Tax-exempt status was restored in exchange for a payment of \$12.5 million, as well as the establishment by the church of a special "church-tax compliance committee". The church's assets total an estimated \$300 million.

# Rabbi 'wanted mosque blasted'

Jerusalem: Israel's chief army rabbi urged blowing up the Dome of the Rock mosque here after its capture by Israeli troops in 1967, *Haaretz* newspaper said yesterday.

It reported that former General Uzi Narkiss, under whose command Israel captured the holy city's Jewish Temple Mount in 1967, disclosed the conversation with Rabbi Shlomo Goren in an interview last May while battling with an illness that claimed his life two weeks ago at the age of 72. *Haaretz* said that he spoke on condition



Holy Muslim shrine: the gold-topped Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem.

that nothing would be published during his lifetime. Goren died in 1994, aged 77.

According to Narkiss, Goren, then the army's chief rabbi, approached him after

the capture of the site and said: "Now is the time to put 100kg of explosives into the Mosque of Omar so that we may rid ourselves of it once and for all." The general

replied: "Rabbi, if you don't stop, I'll take you to jail." Israel instead granted the Muslims religious autonomy on the Temple Mount, Islam's third holiest site.

# Kaunda banned from politics in transfer to house arrest

BY RAY KENNEDY

KENNETH KAUNDA, the former Zambian President, was released from prison yesterday but placed under house arrest at his home in Lusaka, the capital, and barred from political activity.

President Chiluba acknowledged that he had been forced to give in to severe international pressure. He said he had received "very reasonable requests" to free Dr Kaunda, 73, from Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian President, who arrived in Lusaka on Monday night, and President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who is chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

Concern about the treatment of Dr Kaunda and his detention on Christmas Day

without trial, ostensibly in connection with a failed coup attempt by junior army officers in October when he was out of the country, has also been expressed by Britain, the United States and the Commonwealth.

Dr Kaunda maintained a hunger strike from the time of his arrest until Tuesday when, according to Mr Nyerere, who visited him in jail, they shared some fruit juice and biscuits.

Mr Chiluba said that Dr Kaunda would remain under house arrest "until his case is settled". As well as being barred from political activity, he is also forbidden from making any statements to the media. Officials of Dr Kaunda's

United National Independence Party (Unip), Zambia's main opposition, were not impressed. They said: "We don't consider this as a release. It is merely a change of the place of confinement."

Earlier, diplomats in Lusaka said that Mr Nyerere, after discussions with Mr Chiluba, would try to urge Dr Kaunda to announce his retirement from active politics in return for his freedom, but the suggestion was rejected scornfully by his son, Major Wezi Kaunda, whose passport was seized when he tried to drive into neighbouring Zimbabwe on Monday. Major Kaunda said: "The idea is preposterous. He will never agree to that."

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# Fear of Kenya unrest grows

BRITAIN yesterday condemned the conduct of Kenya's elections as opposition leaders said they would refuse to accept a victory by President Moi.

The two main opposition parties gave a warning that Kenya was edging towards civil unrest. They claimed it was impossible that President Moi had won and said they would not accept any result that showed him doing so because the process was fraudulent.

Raila Odinga and Mwai Kibaki said the Electoral Commission was controlled by the state security services which had helped to rig the ballot. "It is clear that this will lead to violence, to disaster. The people will not accept it and we shall not accept it," Mr Odinga said. "We want a controlled reaction, that is why we are meeting," Mr Kibaki added.

Tony Lloyd, a British Foreign Office minister, said he shared the "widespread concern" at the confusion and delays that accompanied the elections. He deeply regretted the deaths and outbreaks of violence and said the

President Moi's rivals will reject his win in a poll widely considered fraudulent, write David Orr in Nairobi and Michael Binyon

irregularities had raised questions over the efficiency and credibility of the polls.

"The Kenyan people have shown great patience," he said. "We share their wish that they should decide for themselves the future of their country in peaceful, free and fair elections."

Early results in the parliamentary poll indicated that President Moi's Kanu party, in power since independence, was in the lead. However, most of the constituencies returned yesterday were Kanu strongholds. The first big name to fall was Joseph Kamotho, Kanu's secretary-general and the Education Minister.

The elections, which began on Monday, had to be extended by a day

after chaos at polling stations. Ballot papers were delivered late or to wrong locations. In some areas floods rendered voting impossible. A number of ballot boxes went missing or were found to have been tampered with.

Samuel Kivuita, the embattled chairman of the Electoral Commission, conceded there had been errors in the way the polls were conducted but insisted they were free and fair. "The problem, we're not deliberate," a weary Mr Kivuita said after President Moi and the Opposition accused his commission of rigging the poll.

The counting of votes is expected to continue today and to run into tomorrow. It is proving to be a long process, not least because of the high turnout by

Kenya's nine million registered voters. More than three-quarters of the electorate turned out to vote.

On Tuesday the President accused the Electoral Commission of having tried to rig the ballot in the Opposition's favour. Some speculated that, though widely tipped to win, he was getting nervous about the outcome.

"There might have been some rigging during the election," one Western diplomat said. "But it was mostly incompetence and stupidity that created the problems."

A statement issued by the group monitoring the elections said that the over-riding impression was of "a totally unsatisfactory logistical and administrative handling of the election by the Electoral Commission".

Incidents of vote buying and intimidation were recorded, Mutava Mutuyimi, chairman of the monitors, said. But it would not be possible to say the whole process had been brought into question until all reported incidents had been investigated.

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# Russia awakes to funny money worry

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIANS nursing seasonal hangovers could be forgiven this morning for believing that they are the victims of a huge practical joke.

In an ambitious attempt to rein in the volatile currency, Russia last night lopped three noughts off rouble bills. The pound will now be worth ten roubles, as opposed to 10,000, and a ticket on the metro will cost two roubles instead of 2,000.

Many Russians, fearful of new currency turmoil, have already swapped their old roubles for the safety of the US dollar.

Some confusion is likely to be caused by Russia's 11 time zones, as people in the Far East will start using the revalued rouble while their compatriots in the West still have the old.

According to a recent poll, more than a third of Russians predicted "unpleasantness" from the change and many suspect it will be used as a pretext to raise prices. Given the recent stormy history of currency reform their suspicions are well founded.

In 1991, Valentin Pavlov, the then Soviet Prime Minister, attempted to crush currency speculators when he announced that all 50 and 100-rouble notes would have to be exchanged in three days, causing widespread panic and some huge personal losses.

The authorities displayed similar clumsiness two years later when President Yeltsin wanted to force people to swap Soviet for Russian currency, which resulted in another stampede to the banks.

Quite aside from changing banknotes, the rouble's recent history has been stormy at best. Runaway inflation in the early 1990s, which at one point reached 2,600 per cent, wiped out many people's life savings, ensuring that the dollar became the currency of choice for most Russians.

If the currency reform goes smoothly, it could be the perfect way for Mr Yeltsin to start 1998. In the coming 12 months he has vowed that the economy will finally come right after seven turbulent years in transition.



Leonardo often painted pretty boys, but his *Virgin of the Rocks* suggests an affinity with women as well

# Liaison with Renaissance courtesan exposes Leonardo as heterosexual

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

NEW research into the private life of Leonardo da Vinci suggests he had an "intense relationship" with a courtesan while he was in his sixties and was a regular customer at a Milanese brothel, casting doubt on previous historians' views that he was homosexual.

The painter frequented several courtesans in his later years including one known as *la Cremona*, who was evidently his favourite, the Leonardo expert, Professor Carlo Pedretti, director of the Hammer Centre for Leonardo Studies at the University of California, said yesterday.

Professor Pedretti's findings are to be published in the forthcoming issue of *Accademia Leonardo*, an annual volume of studies on the artist, suggesting that Leonardo was at the very least bisexual.

Professor Pedretti said he based his conclusions about Leonardo's girlfriends on documents conserved at the Ambrosian Library in Milan, including information from Giuseppe Bossi, an 18th-century scholar, who quoted from a note in which Leonardo referred to *la Cremona*.

The painter and inventor had "an intense relation" with the prostitute after 1513 when he was called to Rome by Giuliano de Medici, the brother of Pope Leo X, Professor Pedretti claims.

"Leonardo himself said that he had girlfriends," the professor said in a telephone inter-



Leonardo: patron of Roman and Milanese brothels

view from his home in Tuscany. "But there was already enough evidence in the direction of the heterosexual orientation of Leonardo."

"There is always the fact to be considered that his work is dotted with images of pretty boys. That is slightly suspicious. But that was all over the society at the time. We still

don't have a direct perception of that society. One may conclude that Leonardo was bisexual, but I would not."

"What is certain is that he enjoyed the company of this woman, who was a prostitute, possibly a high-class one. I'm afraid it's tough news for the gay movement."

Professor Pedretti said he

did not believe that Leonardo may have adopted a heterosexual stance under pressure. "Absolutely not. From the tone of the document this is to be ruled out."

Leonardo was previously believed to be homosexual in part because of what some historians saw as his ambiguous relationship with three young boys who lived in the Vatican with him. His reputation for being gay also derived from his trial in Florence in the year 1476, at the age of 24, on sodomy charges. He was acquitted.

"He was not accused directly," Professor Pedretti said. "He was involved with a group of co-workers and he was acquitted together with everyone except for one bad fellow. It's indisputable that he had girlfriends. The whole papal scene was quite hedonistic at the time. There were a lot of women around."

Related research by Alessandro Vezzosi, the director of the Leonardo da Vinci museum in the Tuscan town of Vinci, indicates that Leonardo frequented a brothel in Milan around 1490.

Signor Vezzosi said that documents he has unearthed in Paris contain "allegories" in which Leonardo confessed to having paid for sex with women.

In one such allegory Leonardo speaks of an imaginary person who is annoyed at the toll to enter the city of Modena. However, the character quoted by Leonardo consoles himself because "in Florence just to enter with the male member costs much more".

# Blair to direct euro show from wings

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN takes its turn in the European Union presidency today, with ambitious hopes for injecting a dash of New Labour vigour, but the ironies of the calendar have handed Britain a paramount task — setting the stage for monetary union.

The high moment of the six-month presidency will come in May when Tony Blair chairs a Brussels summit to designate the states which will lock their currencies into the euro a year from today. British ministers will then become spectators as the euro-participants, expected to number all states except Greece, Denmark, Sweden and Britain, start fixing exchange rates and setting up the European Central Bank. The Government has been



Britain's 1998 EU logo

striving to allay suspicions that British doubts about the currency could hamper its chairmanship of the councils that will pave the way for the grand euro decisions. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, issued his latest assurance yesterday. "We are going ... to make sure that the plans for

the single currency are sensibly carried out and that everything possible is done to make sure that those who want to go ahead succeed," he said.

The Government's decision to stay out of the EU's big historical leap has underlined Britain's old ambivalence over its place in the 41-year-old European enterprise. While the arrival of Mr Blair's Euro-friendly administration has been heartily welcomed on the Continent, the Prime Minister has stirred some old antipathies. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has resented the new boy's crusading tones. France was especially irked by Mr Blair's vigorous but fruitless offensive for a seat in the single currency's management club at the Luxembourg summit last month. The "mad cow disease" affair continues to sour the cross-Channel

climate, although Britain hopes to win consent within weeks to an easing of the ban on beef exports. There is, however, wide recognition that Britain enjoys a powerful political hand as it takes over the Council of Ministers for a tour that ends with a summit in Cardiff in June.

With a huge electoral mandate, a booming economy and his charisma, Mr Blair is still the European reference for dynamic leadership.

*Le Figaro* was wondering yesterday whether France's old-fashioned Socialist Government had learnt the lessons of "Blairism". Germany's *Die Welt* welcomed London's presidency because "the British, pragmatic and professional, are best suited to weld together the many compromises in everyday life in the EU which make the difference

between a good and not-so-good presidency".

The Blair team aims to balance the loss of influence from its euro opt-out with an enthusiastic approach to EU business that will bring the generally unloved Union "closer to the people". London will also press a British-style approach to dismantling the over-regulation that has contributed to crippling unemployment in France, Germany, Belgium and other states. The Government also wants the adoption of an EU code of conduct on arms sales.

Britain hopes to leave its mark in the longer term with its launch of negotiations in April for enlarging the EU to the former communist nations of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus.

Leading article, page 17





Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on health resolutions, angina, dengue fever, and the benefits of massage

# Resolve to say a final goodbye to sloth and gluttony

Whether celebrating quietly at home or reveling at a party, many of us will make new year resolutions about health. Our more heinous unhealthy habits show a disregard for one or more of the seven deadly sins, each of which can lead to medical disaster.

But it requires more than a good resolution to convert, and thereby spare the heart of, a type A personality—competitive, striving and ruthlessly ambitious—to a type B, no less clever and sometimes as successful but laid-back and contemplative. Unless the type A respond to beta-blockers or are very determined, they will continue to journey through life burdened with a heavy load of avarice, pride and

envy. Good resolutions may also help the testosterone-rich to control their lust, but will not remove their fantasies.

Gluttony and sloth are two sins that are amenable to willpower, which can be encouraged by a few simple resolutions. Any resolve about weight loss and a healthier diet should look at the overall menu rather than the composition and caloric values of individual foods. There is little point, for instance, in the gluttonous cutting back on butter intake if they continue to eat mounds of fatty chips.

A balanced diet, carefully divided up so that the person has at least three meals during the day, each providing comparable amounts of energy, leads to weight loss. The time of day at which food is eaten is



Beat that craving: a resolution never to raid the fridge may be doomed to failure, but try to cut down on fatty foods

also important: fatty food taken at lunchtime or later has a less dramatic effect on blood fats than it does if eaten at breakfast. About 25 years ago, dieticians at the Royal London Hospital persuaded a group of obese City workers to abandon the unhealthy habit of starving all day but having a huge dinner at night. Instead they divided calorie intake into three equal portions by prescribing a larger breakfast

and lunch and a smaller dinner. Each patient lost, on average, a stone in weight.

An uncomplicated resolution would be to get up half an hour earlier each day, so as to have breakfast. This should include a substantial amount of grain taken as cornflakes, dried oats or porridge. A fat-rich breakfast of bacon, eggs and fried bread should be reserved as an occasional treat. Recent research at Cambridge stressed that orange juice, although in general a useful food, may cause a rise in blood fats if taken early in the morning.

Compared with foods rich in protein, fat and sugar, vegetables are frequently rejected and despised. This is supposed to be a primitive response from the time when human beings wandered the world as hunter-gatherers, always on the lookout for scarce but essential meat and the occasional sweet fruit.

Today's good resolutions should include a promise to eat at least five portions of fruit or vegetables daily, as these foods contain important vitamins and a wide selection of flavonoids—powerful antioxidants which protect against heart disease and probably against cancer.

Research has shown that whereas vitamins C and E, and folic acid, are efficacious in tablet form, beta-carotene is not—there is no alternative to eating up our greens. Any woman who might become pregnant must resolve to take folic acid in pill form before she conceives, so as to reduce the chances of spina bifida, harelip and other deformities.

Gluttons should resolve in future to take fat in moderation: although fat is essential to a balanced diet and to cut it out altogether would be wrong.

Excessive alcohol consumption is another form of gluttony, and even when toasting the new year we should vow

# Headaches may start in the heart

IN MEDICINE the importance of symptoms is constantly being rediscovered. Nearly 40 years ago, when I worked under the late Dr Geoffrey Konstam, a meticulous cardiologist, he questioned many patients who were suffering from the coronary heart disease myocardial ischaemia at length about any possible headaches. Dr Konstam surmised triumphantly when he uncovered an association between the patient's headache and the taking of exercise—or indeed any activity that caused a feeling of excitement.

In occasional cases the unexplained headaches were the first symptom a patient had noticed, while in many others the pain had been overlooked because of greater concern about chest discomfort. Myocardial ischaemia is a condition in which the heart arteries have become so narrowed that the heart muscle is starved of essential oxygen and other nutrients, which leads to a cramping pain.

A recent report in the journal *Neurology* studies two cases of coronary heart disease linked with severe headache and exercise that would have delighted Dr Konstam. In the first, a 57-year-old man developed a severe headache ten minutes after vigorous exercise, such as walking, swimming or sexual intercourse. The patient had experienced only very slight, ill-defined chest discomfort. But because he had said that the pain occurred after exercise, albeit in his head rather than his chest, a test using an exercise electrocardiogram—an electrocardiogram taken while the patient walks on a treadmill—was performed. As the heart tracing started to show the changes associated with coronary heart disease, the patient began to develop severe headache.

In the other case, a man aged 67 also developed a headache ten minutes after starting to exercise. The pain subsided once he had rested. His ECG also showed myocardial ischaemia. In both the instances, the coronary artery disease affected three vessels. The two patients underwent angioplasty, in which the blocked coronary arteries are dilated by inflating a balloon that has been inserted into the artery. The two men made an excellent recovery and were able to resume exercising in or out of bed, without inducing a headache.

The classic symptoms of angina pectoris is a tight or crushing sensation across the centre of the chest. The pain may be so severe that it stops a person from performing any activity at all. Sometimes, however, there may be nothing more than a nagging, discomforting ache. In the former instance, the pain frequently radiates down the inside of the left arm, at times reaching the thumb and fingers.

Anginal pain is not always easy to diagnose. Often it may cause a gripping sensation in the throat that may extend up into the jaw or through to the back. The pain may be felt even in the teeth—indeed, many patients have been mistakenly referred to a dentist rather than a cardiologist.

ANGINA may also be felt at the top of the arm, the ball of the thumb or as a tickle at the end of the nose. Sometimes the pain misleadingly radiates down the inside of the right arm rather than the left arm.

But wherever—and however strongly—it is felt, angina is usually brought on by exercise. So should you notice any signs of pain after vigorous activity, you ought to have an exercise ECG.

## Angina sufferers have been referred to dentists by mistake

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

**FAIRYTALE FASHION**

The gossamer-fine frocks that will be flying out of the shops. **STYLE**, this weekend

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## There is little point in cutting back on butter but not chips

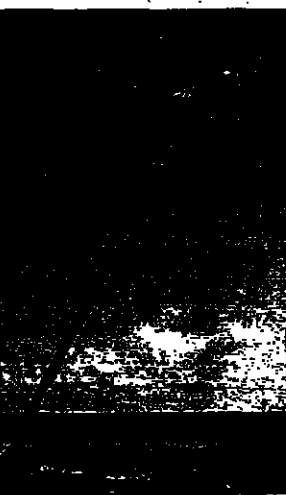
But health resolutions should not be confined to imposing strictures on reprehensible behaviour. They should also include a resolve to overcome any dislike of visiting the doctor. Everyone should have their blood pressure measured annually, and their urine examined for sugar and protein. Blood needs to be taken regularly for a full biochemical and haematological analysis. The middle-aged and the elderly need an occasional ECG (heart tracing), and men aged 50 and above should have an annual PSA blood test so that prostate cancer may be diagnosed while it is still curable. Women, including the over-65s, should preferably have a mammography every 18 months—rather more frequently than the NHS provides—as well as their regular smears.

## Dengue hits Barbados

BARBADOS may not be quite so attractive this year to the Newmarket trainers who traditionally take their winter holiday on the island. Unfortunately, since 1969, mosquitoes in the Caribbean have occasionally carried the flavivirus, which cause outbreaks of dengue fever. An outbreak of dengue is now affecting Barbados.

Usually, within a week of being bitten by a mosquito carrying dengue, the patient suddenly develops a high fever with attacks of shivering, severe headache and back and joint pains. The eyes become bloodshot and the lymph glands swell. Although the temperature rises, the blood pressure and pulse rate falls, so that the patient has to swap the beach for bed.

Dengue has a habit of improving so that the symptoms disappear after a few days only to return 24 hours later with a vengeance. The second phase is characterised by a widespread rash with



Paradise not so attractive

inflamed and swollen palms, together with a recurrence of a headache and a high fever. The last patient I saw who had dengue fever was still feeling excessively tired six months later, but the recovery period can be even longer. Fortunately, the type of dengue usually experienced in the Caribbean isn't fatal. The only treatment is that designed to minimise symptoms. The best preventive measures are those that keep mosquitoes at bay.



Aromatherapy massage: patients can feel relief from tension as they savour the smells

**Rubbing oil on the troubled psyche**

COMPLEMENTARY medicine has a useful part to play in medical practice supporting the antibiotics, chemotherapy, chest and cardiac drugs that keep ailing patients alive, or the drugs that restore calm to seriously disturbed psyches.

The *Journal of the Royal Society of Health* has reported on an analysis of previous research into aromatherapy, and *Monitor*, a magazine for doctors, reviewed it. Dr Robert Bethel is encouraging about aromatherapy and concludes that the treatment combines the benefits of massage with unhurried time spent chatting and listening to the patient while savouring the smells. Dr Bethel concludes that the improvement in the patient's health after aromatherapy is mostly because of the relief of tension they feel, and that it can be useful in conjunction with conventional medicine.

He is, however, rather doubtful about any claims made for the pharmacological action of the oils.

## Good news for stroke sufferers

EVEN patients who make a good, rapid recovery from a stroke often worry that they may later suffer epileptic seizures. The *British Medical Journal* carries good news for all those who have had strokes, and particularly for those who are able to look after themselves within a month of the attack.

Whereas the small, but appreciable number of patients—about 11 per cent—who have strokes later suffer a seizure, only 4.2 per cent of the group who have made a quick recovery have even a single fit. When seizures do occur, they can usually be fully controlled by medication.

The authors of the report suggest that considerable care should be exercised before prescribing anticonvulsant medication for patients who have had a stroke if they have made a quick recovery. They also emphasise that recurrent seizures as a result of a stroke affect only a small minority.



NEW YEAR - NEW START

Headaches start in the heart

Dream built on a speck in the ocean

Many dream of packing in their careers and running a hotel or restaurant. Peter Foster meets two couples who did just that.

As Piers Lewin and Rachel Dinwiddy sit in their fisherman's cottage, listening to the Atlantic Ocean a few hundred yards beyond the bottom of the garden, their memories of London life are rapidly fading. It was only two months ago that the young couple, who met while studying for their Oxford finals, packed up their flat in London's Russell Square, threw a huge party to say goodbye to their friends and shipped out to live on a small island 28 miles off Land's End. They intend, for as long as they care to look into the future, to live and work on St Agnes, the most isolated of the Isles of Scilly and the most southwesterly point in Britain.

The only way to reach their new home is on a small boat that lurches across the December swell from St Mary's, the largest of the islands. St Agnes is a mere scrap of an island, one-and-a-half miles across. It has a resident population of 72, a pub, a post office and a herd of shaggy brown cows. In summer the community lives off the tourist trade, but in winter the garden cafe owners pull in their signboards, the fishermen stow their nets, repair work begins on the island's properties and the community has time to rediscover itself while producing its daffodil and narcissus crop for export to the mainland.

This winter Piers, 25, and Rachel, 24, will begin renovating the ten-bedroom guesthouse they have bought together, and start sinking roots into the place where they eventually hope to marry and to bring up children. Downs Cottage is a crooked fisherman's house with low ceilings and thick walls. The late-Victorian extension that makes up the guesthouse overlooks a coastline of granite boulders which, because of their shapes, have acquired names such as Nag's Head and Queen Victoria. There is a vegetable garden which needs to be reclaimed from the weeds, and several stunted palm trees.

The decision to move to the Isles of Scilly germinated slowly in Rachel's mind. She fell in love with the islands on family holidays when, as a small girl, she often dreamt of finding a way to live there - including applying for the post of schoolmistress. Later, while taking a year off from university following the death of her father and a bout of glandular fever, she lived in a shed at the bottom of a garden on St Mary's for almost six months, researching a thesis on the history of the islands for her degree. It was then that she realised she could be happy living in relative isolation, away from the city and at a remove from most of her friends.

She finally made up her mind while on holiday on St Mary's two years ago with Piers, her then new boyfriend, who was working in the wine trade and had a passion for food. Both recall how they resolved to move to Scilly and run a guesthouse. He would do the cooking while she, with a head for organisation and a talent for welcoming stran-

gers, would act as book-keeper and deal directly with the guests. For the next two years they planned their move.

Rachel took a job for a year with a marketing consultancy, to give herself a taste of life as a career girl. At the same time she tackled the painful business of winding up family affairs following the death of her mother in a road accident two days before Christmas in 1994. Piers, meanwhile, trained as a chef at the Conran-owned Butler's Wharf Chef School in London, adding practical skills to a natural zest for preparing and cooking food. Using part of Rachel's premature inheritance they bought Downs Cottage and, in something like a scene from *The Piano*, arrived on the quayside with their container of belongings on a windy day last November.

The dream is now real and the couple's enthusiasm, so far anyway, has not faded.

The pair have taken delivery of a 1990s electric van for carrying supplies and guests' luggage from the quayside. One rainy lunchtime we took the van, which looks like a motorised armadillo, down the narrow track to meet the supply launch and collect oil cans and supplies ordered from the cash-and-carry on the mainland. We also collected supplies for a neighbour.

The next day a farmer, passing on his tractor, saw us toiling up the hill carrying garden tools and stopped to let us climb aboard. Whatever the petty rivalries and irritations of living in a small community, offering and repaying favours remains the everyday currency of island life.

Another afternoon, after a



Steve and Jackie Fischer and their son, Jake, aged two, starting up their restaurant offered a neat way of fulfilling professional ambitions and meeting the needs of a young family

For a restaurateur there can be few sights more upsetting than an empty dining room. As the hours go by the blank reservations book by the phone becomes mocking. By 10pm it is obvious nobody is coming, and the chef, his *coulis* beyond resuscitation, is smoking disconsolately on a stool. At 11pm, the *maitre d'* sends the staff home and goes despondently to bed.

Steve and Jackie Fischer have had a few blank nights since opening their restaurant in Stroud, Gloucestershire, last August. Lying at one end of the Slad Valley, Fischer's Restaurant is the realisation of a dream. They bought the place after Jackie's father, a retired financier, offered her an early inheritance on the condition, she says, "that we used the money to make something of ourselves".

Buying a restaurant seemed obvi-

Cooking and waiting

ous. Since qualifying in the early 1980s, Steve, now 33, has cooked his way across the country, from Guildford, where he started on E25 a week, to Basingstoke and other provincial towns before arriving in Stroud. Until the move he was head chef in a large hotel in Gloucestershire, working split shifts knocking out meals by the dozen while Jackie stayed at home to look after their two-year-old son, Jake. Now the family lives in the flat above the 30-cover restaurant, built into the side of the valley out of the local Cotswold stone. Sitting in the Snug Bar on Christmas Eve, Jackie, who has two teenage sons by a previous marriage, says the move offered a neat way of fulfilling professional

ambitions and the needs of a young family. "When he was at the hotel Steve would see Jake for two hours a day," she says. "Now we have more time together. Jake knows that when the gate at the top of the stairs is closed his dad is working, but he can hear him downstairs."

It is too early to make accurate predictions on the likelihood of success, December was a bumper month, but October and November were worryingly quiet. Steve has set himself a target of 450 covers a month by the end of the first year but managed only 230 in October. The 700 guests who ate at Fischer's in December offered some consolation. The couple are doing all they can to promote the restaurant's up-

market cuisine, including a documentary with BBC radio. A gushing review in the glossy *Cotswold Life*, a local imitation of *Country Life* magazine, praises a seasonal menu that includes lemon grass sausage, basil crostini and celeriac puree. The Fischers are anxious to find a balance between culinary ambition and wary provincial palates. Steve tells of one guest who was horrified to learn she had unwittingly eaten a snail.

When I met him he had been up until 3.00am waiting on a rowdy office party, and he greeted me with red eyes. He had opened that lunchtime especially for two women he had had to turn away when booked to capacity. He fits in the interview around waiting at their table - after being confined to the kitchen for 20 years, he has had to revive his front-of-house skills.

As his guests take coffee, he weighs up the future while I sample a delicious plate of pheasant. Is he worried? "Yes. The comments about the food and ambience have been positive, but we have to get people coming back. We have decided to give it two years to establish a regular clientele; if you are not careful, a restaurant can become a bottomless money pit."

He does not want to be a millionaire; his ambition is simply to make enough money to continue doing what he loves best.

Everybody has a Dream will be on BBC Radio 4 at 9pm on January 4.

gave hits Andros

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Determined: islanders Piers and Rachel

morning digging the garden and a bunch of crab which came free from a wheelbarrow outside the fisherman's house, we went for a blow along the shore. The air felt clear enough to cure consumption.

Nights are spent reading, playing cards or watching television. Rachel, a soap addict, says her viewing hours have been slashed since she arrived. In winter the pub is open on Wednesday for a quiz and on Saturday night for drinking only. Some time after midnight, everyone walks back to their houses in an unsteady crocodile. There is no light-pollution to hide the stars.

Idyllic as all this may sound, Piers and Rachel say they are

not running away. On the contrary, they see themselves as simply embracing a different way of life. "We are not burnt-out stockbrokers who have made a pile and want to follow some notion of rural simplicity. We have come here to bring up a family and live a full life," says Rachel.

Both say they are prepared for the drudgery that is an inescapable part of running a guesthouse for seven months without a break. There will be no days off. But Piers, instead of slaving in a London restaurant kitchen under a tyrannical head chef, will be his own boss, drawing up menus and using herbs and vegetables from the garden, locally caught lobsters, meat slaughtered from island herds and even the bitter sea-spinach which grows wild on the shore. He hopes that over time he will build a good reputation for his cooking.

In between frying breakfast, making beds and providing evening meals, the pair hope to find time to enjoy the island and even write books about food and the history of the Scillies and the 19th-century patron of the islands, Augustus Smith. In winter they plan to use their profits (they are fully booked for high season next year) to travel, visit friends in London and enjoy community life.

Such dreams do not seem too far-fetched as the couple enjoy the honeymoon period of their new life. Perhaps it will turn out to be disappointingly different, but both say they are committed to the venture for at least five years.

Yet there are few places on St Agnes to escape to if things start to go wrong. And after only a week on the island, it is not hard to imagine how loneliness could hit you.

As the boat pulls away from the quay, leaving Rachel and Piers waving frantically in their oilskins, my thoughts are already turning to London. I am not sure if I have left them in paradise or in prison.

revised interest rates

NOTICE TO ALL BORROWERS

The Society's standard variable base rate for new and existing borrowers will be increased to 8.64% from 1st January 1998 or at such other time in accordance with the terms of the mortgage deed.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS

REVISED INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE AT 1st JANUARY 1998

Table with columns for Amount Invested, Gross %, and Net %. It lists various investment products like Nova Plus Special Account, Nova Plus (Issue 2), Nova Star (Ninth Issue), Club Deposit Account, Small Savers Deposit Account, Tessa 3, Direct 75, and Small Savers Account.

Closed Issues (continued)

Table listing various closed issues and their interest rates. It includes Club Account, Nova 50, Nova Gross Special Account, Tessa & Tessa 2, Direct 50, Nova Star First - Fifth Issues Inc., Nova Superstar, Nova Star (Sixth/Seventh Issue), Nova Star (Eighth Issue), Nova Select II, Bonus Booster Bond (Issue 1 & 2), Nova Super Feeder (S.A.Y.E. Feeder Account), Nova Feeder (S.A.Y.E. Feeder Account), High/Extra High Interest Accounts, and Super 90.

Newcastle Building Society advertisement. Includes the company logo, contact information (Principal Office: Portland House, New Bridge St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AL), and a coupon for requesting further information. The coupon asks for Name, Address, Postcode, Home Telephone Number, and Date.



# Don't be a killjoy, Mr Blair

Mary Ann Sieghart objects to cutting our drink-drive limit

I was at a Christmas party last week, as I eked out my second and last glass of wine, that I realised the Government was planning to make my life intolerable. I was about to join huntsmen, beef farmers and gun owners in the ranks of the newly oppressed.

Most of the rest of the adult population will soon be similarly put upon. In one seemingly trivial move, decided in the guise of responsibility, the Government will find itself instantly unpopular, and the normally responsible citizen will lose respect for the law.

I refer to the drink-driving limit, currently set at 80mg per 100ml, or two to four glasses of wine, depending on your size. Confine yourself to this limit and an evening out is bearable, even if everyone else is drinking much more. Cut it to 50mg — just one glass for many of us — and you will feel like a nun at an orgy. Going out will cease to be fun.

Teetotalers claim to be able to get "high" on the atmosphere. But it is a technique that few of us moderate social drinkers have been able to master. The truth is that, at a stroke, the Government intends to wreck our social lives.

Ah, but the measure will save real lives, they will argue. And any policy that saves lives must surely be right. In that case, let's ban cars altogether. Or we could impose a speed limit of 5mph in towns and 30mph on motorways. And while we're at it, why not replace kitchen knives with plastic ones? All decisions are a balance of risk against reward.

### In a stroke new Labour intends to wreck our social lives

No one doubts that driving when drunk is dangerous. But how should we define "drunk"? Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Italy and Luxembourg agree with Britain that 80mg is the appropriate level. Another seven EU countries opt for 50mg. Only Sweden insists on just 20mg.

Yes, despite enjoying the higher limit, British roads are safer than any other EU country's, including Sweden's. So why the pressure to change?

Britain's campaign against drink-driving has been a great success, one of the few instances where Government has been able to change social attitudes. Fifteen years ago, people who turned down another drink because they were driving were seen as killjoys or prigs. Now it is the genuinely drunk driver who has become a social pariah.

As a result, deaths in drink-related accidents have fallen from 1,643 in 1979 to just 540 last year. Now, however, we are told that the limit should be nearly halved because the decline has levelled off. According to Baroness Hayman, the Roads Minister, "We have had a lot of success with drink-driving campaigns — but there is still a hard core of offenders who are way over the limit and causing a lot of death and destruction."

She is right: the majority of drink-related deaths are caused by people who have double the present limit of

alcohol in their blood. In that case, cutting the limit will not help. We need to target the recalcitrant drunks, not the responsible majority.

Neil Kinnock, the EU's transport commissioner, showed the same twisted logic (not to mention dubious taste) when he used the death of Princess Diana to argue for cutting and harmonising limits across the Union. Henri Paul, her driver, had 175mg of alcohol in his blood — three-and-a-half times the French limit. Harmonisation at a lower level would hardly have saved Diana's life.

I can see why it might be inconvenient to live in Luxembourg (80mg) when you want to pop over to Belgium (50mg) for dinner. But Britain, being an island, has no such problem. Our Government should not allow itself to be bullied into agreeing an EU-wide lower limit.

If ministers want to reduce death on the roads still further, though, there are plenty of ways in which they could crack down on seriously anti-social drinkers while leaving the rest of us to abide by the current law.

In some American states, people with drink-driving convictions have to fit a device in their car which will not allow the engine to start until the driver has breathed into it — and will prevent the car from working if there is too much alcohol in the breath. Such a device could be brought here, along with much heavier penalties for repeat convictions. Policemen could also be given the power to target certain roads or areas, such as pub car parks, for breathalysing.

But what Tony Blair should not be countenancing are measures that punish the many to hit the few. We, as citizens, accept certain constraints on our behaviour in order that society should function smoothly. But the workings of the law rest on our assent. We hugely resent restrictions that seem overbearing or unjustified. That is when we start to lose respect both for the law and the police.

The Tories are dying to paint the Labour Government as the "manny State". If the drink-drive limit were to be halved, they would have their strongest case yet. So far, the victims of Labour's bossiness have been tiny fractions of people, mainly living in rural Conservative seats. This time, the anger would spread all over the country, in towns and cities as well as the countryside.

There are few government policies that directly affect all our lives, all the time. This little measure would make a difference quite disproportionate to its size. And it could create an antipathy to Mr Blair's Government which would be quite disproportionate to its importance in new Labour's programme.

The secret of good political management is to neutralise political bombshells before they explode in your face. This one should be defused, now.



# Labour's bleak midwinter

Problems are piling up — and none of them can be solved from the Seychelles

I do not think Tony Blair's Seychelles holiday was a good idea. John Aubrey, the engaging 17th-century Fellow of the Royal Society who wrote *Brief Lives*, used a wonderful Latin word, "Angiportus", which I have long wished to get back into print. It means a narrow entrance or gate; there is even an absolute English form of the word angiport, which is to be found in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Aubrey uses it to describe those critical moments in political or military affairs when a leader has to find a way through a narrow entrance or

matter of public interest which justified the investigative methods which Miss Alford used. Yet even minor drug dealing is a criminal offence, and Miss Alford's handling of the small quantity of cannabis involved was for the purpose of exposing crime. In the circumstances her arrest was not justified; it was an overreaction, departing from normal police procedure. We do not know who took this decision, though I doubt if anyone in the Government wanted it.

The second mistake was the application by John Morris, the usually very sound Attorney-General, for an injunction to restrain *The Sun* from publishing the name of the minister, which is now widely known. This was a political mistake, in that it drew further attention to the case and provided new headlines for the next day. The Attorney-General was, however, acting not in a political but in a legal capacity. He was wrong in law in one part of his application and ill-judged in the other.

The Attorney-General was refused an injunction under the 1993 Children and Young Persons Act. Mr Justice Moses then allowed him an injunction under a different law on the grounds that revealing the parent's name would be likely to interfere with the cause of justice. These unnecessary extensions of the law of contempt should always be resisted. The parent's name is bound to be known to the court which may eventually try the case. The case is a minor one, unlikely to attract a serious penalty. The amount of the drug allegedly sold was small, and it was a first offence. Courts do not want to turn 17-year-olds into confirmed criminals by custodial sentences. Risk of prejudice to publication of the name is hypothetical and slight.

One of the reasons for the size of the Labour landslide in May was the support of the two largest daily tabloids, *The Sun* and *The Mirror*, which are both now involved in the dispute. Even the *Daily Mail*, which is a mid-market tabloid, sees what

has happened as a serious threat to press freedom. "With one bound, John Morris, law officer and Labour politician, has transformed the domestic crisis of the senior minister's son arrested for allegedly supplying cannabis into a dramatically ominous confrontation between government and press."

The tabloid press may be overreacting, but Tony Blair courted it most assiduously before the election. He cannot control this escalating conflict from the Seychelles, and his colleagues do not seem able to manage it with any skill at all.

William Rees-Mogg

Yet this is only the little issue. The big issues are the reform of the welfare state and Northern Ireland. Before Christmas it had become clear that the Labour Party was at least as much divided on the reform of the welfare state as it used to be on nuclear disarmament, or as the Conservatives were on Europe in the last Parliament. This, too, has been in part a presentational problem. One of the Prime Minister's difficulties is that his Secretary of State, Harriet Harman, is not up to so big a task.

Miss Harman is not a bad minister, but she has a very limited imagination. In political persuasion, you have to sell the principle first, and, once it is accepted, the principle can be used to justify the details. Harriet Harman has tried to build the case for welfare reforms from the detail up, just as in the last Parliament Bottomley tried to make the case for health service reforms. It does not work. People are shocked by the cuts which are part of the detail, and have not been persuaded by the broad strategy. Frank Field should have been Secretary of State from the start; Labour hostility to welfare reform has now reached a level in which even that may be impossible.

Unfortunately Mo Mowlam, an able and sympathetic minister, is even further out of her depth in Northern Ireland. The situation in the Maze prison, for which she is the responsible Cabinet minister, is almost beyond belief. The men who

shot Billy Wright say they did so because he was organising the transfers of Nationalists from inside prison. No one seems to doubt that he was indeed doing so. They had access to guns because there had been no general search of the prison since last July: it is now proposed that there shall be searches, but no cell will be searched without the prisoner's consent. The Brighton bomber has been let out for Christmas, has gone to the Republic, and is expected back on Friday. When Mo Mowlam was appointed, the Maze was already a scandal; she relaxed the discipline still further. This is prison government of the terrorists by the terrorists.

Goodwill has never been enough in Northern Ireland, particularly when it seems both weak and one-sided. The peace process cannot succeed if either side loses all confidence in the other. The Unionists are very close to that. Because of what they see as considerable concessions to the Sinn Féin-IRA point of view, the IRA itself is split, and there is great danger of renewed violence. Mo Mowlam has no grip on the Maze prison and no grip on Northern Ireland.

All governments depend on authority; a government without authority is bound to fail. At this new year the Government faces a battle to assert its authority on three fronts. It has stumbled into an unnecessary row with its press allies. For one reason or another, the Government is now getting unfavourable comment from almost all the papers which supported Labour so enthusiastically at the last election. That is much more important in political terms than the purely personal issue of the minister's son.

There is a challenge to the Government's authority inside the Labour Party. Partly because of Harriet Harman's inability to expound welfare policy in terms of principle, the core believers in the Labour Party are losing faith in the Government's support for welfare. Nothing could be more important than that. Neglecting Ireland is equally bad. The peace process seems to be breaking down, the Unionists are alienated, and the Nationalists have not been won over: the terrorists are running the Maze. Perhaps Tony Blair has gone to the Seychelles to plan a much-needed reshuffle. He would have done better to take his decision at Chequers. They should be tough ones.

# Give the country some air

Rural Britain is being stifled, says Magnus Linklater

The winter dawn breaks late on Britain's most northerly shores. We cross the Pentlands Firth in impenetrable blackness, with the slapping of waves the only indication of the sea beneath us. By eight o'clock there is just a faint shading of grey, enough to define the Old Man of Hoy on our starboard bow. Then, as we drive off the St Ola ferry onto the mainland at Stromness, a single strip of pink and orange light unrolls across the sky, exposing the outline of the Orkney hills. It is a show-stopper of a dawn, no less sensational for its long delay.

To be 800 miles from London and Westminster as the new year breaks, is to sense an invigorating detachment. Wrangles over the welfare state, doubts about a single currency, the secrets of Mr Mandelson's Dome, all these, resound but faintly, like a distant and discordant orchestra. It is hard to be greatly exercised about Mr Straw's crackdown on football hooligans or Ms Harman's views on single parents when a south-westerly gale is playing havoc with the winter moorings of a fishing boat, or a storm is threatening to lift the roof off a haybarn. Island life has its own rhythms, often immune to the vagaries of national politics. Jo Grimond used to say that he always got a better sense of priorities when he returned to his Orkney constituency than he ever did in the hotchpot of the Commons.

It is one thing, however, to be detached. It is another to be isolated. Orkney, like many of Britain's rural areas, is not just geographically remote. It feels increasingly out of sympathy with urban-minded governments that seem to know little and care less about the country. It is partly a matter of practical issues — the havoc caused by the BSE crisis, for instance, and the way it has been handled. The latest decision, to outlaw the sale of beef on the bone, is seen not just as the final straw for farmers, but as a peculiarly obtuse piece of thinking. When a risk as remote as one in 600,000 is considered more important than the livelihood of hundreds of farmers, then logic has gone out of the door. A countryman takes daily risks, on land or sea, which render statistical "probability of death" hardly meaningful.

It is partly to do with the harsh economics of island life, where transport costs spiral, and flying north is more expensive than going to Mars, or even Malibu. A distant place becomes even more remote. But more important than this is a sense of disaffection, a growing gulf between urban and rural attitudes. Whether it is an issue such as hunting, field sports, rambling, rights of access, land ownership or reclaiming the green belt, little sign is given that the voice of the countryman is heard with any great interest or understanding. Landowners are portrayed as greedy and selfish, farmers as over-subsidised and indifferent to their own environment. They live off European money, breed battery-reared hens in squalid conditions, release cattle slurry into trout rivers, grub up hedgerows and erect hideous barns out of corrugated iron.

The idea that they might know and even care rather more about the countryside than their urban critics is scarcely worth considering. The notion that subsidies are there to protect the consumer from expensive food rather than line the pockets of farmers surely enters the debate. It takes a week in Orkney to get all that into proper perspective. Orkney, amidst most of the stereotypes, for one thing it is resourceful, a place that has adapted to changing circumstances over the years, preferring self-reliance to handouts. It has a remarkably stable community, with generations of farmers able to trace their roots in the same areas back for hundreds, even thousands, of years.

A recent scientific programme, using DNA techniques, has found bones from Bronze Age settlements like Skara Brae on the western mainland of Orkney showing the same blood groups as those who farm there today. This means that for perhaps 5,000 years the same families have handed on their holdings to their descendants, uninterrupted by war or pestilence or even the latest intervention from Brussels.

I doubt if that is a phenomenon unique to Orkney. Wherever rural communities exist, continuity tends to be the pattern. You cannot live close to the land without learning about it and learning how best to care for it with future generations in mind. Most farmers nurture their own land rather better than those who would dictate to them. Hurred in by quotas and regulations, an Orkney farming friend commented the other day that he wished the Government would understand more and interfere less. "For the first time in generations," he said, "I can see farmers simply pulling out. It's not so much the economics of it, but the sense that they have no room for manoeuvre. They have lost control over their own destiny."

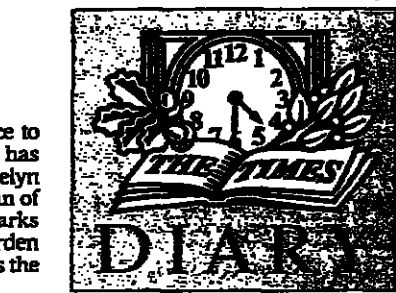
So here is a new year resolution for a government pledged to national unity: give the countryside back to self-reliance. Try to understand what it has to say, and give it room to breathe. A trip to Orkney might help.

# Cross patch

ALL is not rosy in the garden being designed for Kensington Palace to commemorate the life of Diana, Princess of Wales. A nasty row has broken out between these two pillars of the arts establishment. Sir Jocelyn Stevens and Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary. Sir Jocelyn, chairman of English Heritage, has accused Smith of sidelining him. The Royal Parks Agency, led by David Welch, submitted plans for a modern floral garden which Chris Smith commended in a letter to Gordon Brown (the chairs the committee that will decide the fate of the many Diana memorial plans). Sir Jocelyn is less than impressed. "He was stunned not to be consulted," says a friend. "He thought it was absurdly premature to suggest that the proposed design was the right one."

I gather that Sir Jocelyn arranged to meet Mr Smith on December 17, to tell him that the whole thing was "getting a bit out of control" and to remind him that his remit was to advise the minister on all such plans.

He told Mr Smith that all parties — the parks agency, the Historic Royal Palaces Agency and the Government — should get together to come up with a suitable scheme. Sir Jocelyn is expected to call a meeting of the three bodies to "bang heads together" and — more importantly — place his organisation back at the centre of proceedings. Mr Smith's response should be interesting.



friends at the altar tell me that it is a consolation prize — for not bagging the Archbishop of Canterbury when Dr Robert Runcie retired. But Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister, did not want Sheppard (he had suspect political leanings). Thankfully, Tony Blair has no such suspicions...

### Form guide

LETTING down the drawbridge at Diary Towers to usher in the new year, one wonders who will be the warriors and who the weeds of 1998. At Westminster, I predict claret all round as Lord Jenkins of Hillhead masterminds the formation of a national government. As I disclosed, he is to head the commission on electoral reform and his convivial manner should judge Tony and Paddy to the altar.

I anticipate comebacks for Alan Clark, who has added tact to his arsenal of talents. Peter Mandelson, Alan Duncan and Jeffrey Archer will enjoy a triumphant year. Not so Michael Meacher, who, as I disclosed, has been distracted from his red boxes by writing a rather teenage book about the "invisibility of the universe". Nor David Clark, whose globetrotting has been chronicled here. And nor, I fear, Tony Banks, whose adventurous career will end when he is thrown out of the World Cup Final for celebrating heartily with his beloved Zola scores the winning goal for Italy against Eng-



land. This threatens to be the year of the toad: Take the minister for planning, Richard Caborn. His explanation for supporting benefit cuts? "I'm a careerist."

### Huddle doddle

AS he limbers up for the World Cup in France, Glenn Hoddle will also be stretching his writing muscles: the England manager has started penning his memoirs. With this in mind, his money people have been busy touting the — potentially lucrative — project around publishers. Although still young, he will have plenty to say: an elegant career on the pitch, a glamorous spell on the bench at

Chelsea and — in the year he was given the England job — a marital split. He is a spiritual sort (a faith healer called Eileen Drewery has helped him through the separation) and friends expect Hoddle's hinterland to feature strongly.



Lights, camera... Short  
●WELL all be seeing more of Glenn Hoddle. The makers of a fly-on-the-wall documentary — news of which broke here — about her first months as Minister for Overseas Development, have persuaded her to pose — in her swimsuit.  
JASPER GERARD





# RESOLUTION FOR EUROPE

## Enlargement will test Labour's mastery of the EU agenda

Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union starts today. It may, as Robin Cook hopes, set course towards "giving Europe back to the people" by focusing on the things, such as finding and keeping a job, that matter to them. There is nothing wrong with emphasising that EU membership can bring tangible benefits to the far too many people now outside the labour market — provided that can honestly be claimed. But for two reasons, it would be a mistake to concentrate too much on employment.

The first is that the EU, whose social chapter and working hours regulations are liable to have a negative impact on employment, can do little to promote new job opportunities; on this front, it is national policies that matter. The second is that if this were to dominate the EU agenda between now and June, then Britain's stewardship should be judged a failure. Nothing must be allowed to divert from the paramount task of the next six months — that of ensuring that EU enlargement negotiations genuinely take the promised "fast track", and that its existing members get down to business on the EU reforms needed to make enlargement a success. Nothing is less certain.

In theory, the key decision was taken at last month's Luxembourg summit, which agreed to welcome 11 new members and open accession negotiations with the six front-runners on March 31. In practice, the real work begins only now. For all the grand words at Luxembourg about Europe's date with destiny, the lights are on amber in most EU capitals. The Poles, for example, have repeatedly been told by both France and Germany to expect entry by 2000, the Czechs by 2002 at the latest; but yesterday, Karel van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner, cautioned against "over-hasty" negotiations and said that no Central European state was likely to join before 2005.

Mr van Miert has been doing his political arithmetic, which tells him that Britain is the only large EU power solidly committed to this project. France was never an enthusiast,

Germany has cooled and Spain, which contributes 6.4 per cent of the EU budget while taking 15.6 per cent out, stands ready to block the whole process if it means — as it must and should — forfeiting a single euro of this massive subsidy. As for overhauling the common agricultural policy, without which enlargement is not feasible, it is taken as given that nothing can be done about that until after Germany's September elections.

Six months is a very short period, far too short to conclude deals either on the CAP or on regional subsidies; but the key point is that unless the current mindsets change, no deals will ever be done. What the EU needs is less subsidy, more subsidiarity and a readiness to be flexible about the 80,000 pages of EU regulations that new members must in theory accept in their entirety. Tony Blair must effect that shift of attitude, if his dream of a united Europe of broad horizons is to stand a chance. It will take every ounce of his personal charm and political muscle.

To stick to this strategy will require some political courage, for he would have nothing concrete to show for it in June. He will be tempted to devote more effort to little, achievable "victories" in matters of less consequence. Presidencies are all too easily sidetracked. In the weeks to come this Government will be chairing no fewer than 50 ministerial meetings, 150 committees of senior officials and 1,500 expert groups. With every office in Whitehall circulating laundry lists of British "goals" ranging from an EU code on arms sales to the environment and crime-fighting, each meeting has the potential to divert Cabinet energy from the primary task. In addition, Mr Blair must put his unproductive spat over the Euro-X club behind him in order to play the trusted arbiter at the critical spring summit to decide who will qualify for EMU in 1999. For Britain, however, while EMU must be managed with grace, enlargement is the key to its future influence in Europe. Mr Blair should start the new year by sticking a note to remind him of that on his shaving mirror.

# RAILWAY RENAISSANCE

## The iron wheel has turned full circle

On January 1, 1948, more than a century of independent railway history came to an end when the remaining Big Four companies were brought under state control. One by one, 20,023 steam engines, many dating back to the turn of the century, were repainted with the many lion straddling the nationalised company's logo. The State inherited one of the oldest, densest and most dilapidated railway networks in the world.

On almost 20,000 miles of track in the six new regions, 36,033 coaches creaked their way round a network that had been run into the ground by intensive war use, bomb damage, a dearth of investment and equipment dating back a century. The new Railway Executive attempted to rationalise the spirit, rolling stock and personnel of companies that even then were still nostalgic for the "slow and Dirty" Somerset & Dorset railway.

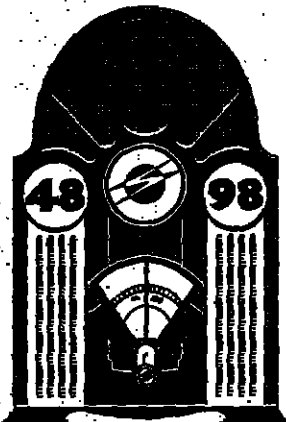
Almost half a century after the first BR engine steamed out of its shed, the last British Rail diesel hooted its farewell on April 1, when the night sleeper pulled into Fort William and brought nationalised railways into the terminus. Since then, 25 private companies have taken over the shrunken network, giving birth to new routes, new liveries and new investment. The iron wheel has turned full circle. A whiff of the old railway mania is again detectable in the air: money is now pouring into the track and the services, disused routes are being reopened, stations revived, new lines built to Britain's main airports and British industry and retailers are transferring thousands of

lorry-loads of freight on to the rails.

It would be easy, but wrong, to write off the national stewardship of Britain's railways as a commercial or political failure. BR was an easy target, and the public liked nothing so much as to grouch about the service, the sandwiches, shabby uniforms and leaves on the line. But already a powerful nostalgia suffuses the last days of steam, the peaceful branch lines and the mighty expresses that thundered up to Edinburgh. This is based not simply on the popular and profitable evocations of the past: the preservation societies, films and

memorabilia of corridor coaches and smoke in the eyes. BR was for millions of people a steady, regular and reliable way to school, work, National Service, romance and family reunion. It did its unsuccessful best to compete with the car, and had to operate within the constraints of a parsimonious Treasury and an often hostile transport department. It had to abandon the technology of a century — steam — and rethink the philosophy of the iron horse in the age of supersonic travel.

There were failures: blinkered management, union obtuseness, architectural vandalism, a uniformity of view, service and timetabling. But under BR the railways became safer, cleaner, more punctual and very much faster. The State has bequeathed to the private companies the Inter-City concept, electrified main lines, advanced engineering and the BR super-sizer breakfast. Britain's railways can now build on half a century of responsible state ownership.



# RED TAPE WORM

## Whitehall bureaucracy is persistent in evading the non-existent

Of course, Minister. Behind the scenes in Whitehall Nessie, the Loch Ness monster, has taken unconscionable hours of Sir Humphrey's time and enough official memoranda to deforest the Highlands. The Annual Register chronicles devaluation, the Vietnam War and revolting students as the key events of 30 years ago. But the public records now released indicate that it was not "the pound in your pocket" but the monster in your loch that exercised officials in the Scottish Office and ministers in Harold Wilson's Government. They were mandarins in full flight from a giant sardine, determined that she should land as an embarrassment in somebody else's red box.

And their monstrous agenda was treated in the highest traditions of Civil Service ingenuity, bluff and obfuscation. One official argued that, whether vertebrate or not, in either case the Loch Ness monster could not be his responsibility, but must be that of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. Ministry of Defence intelligence experts pronounced that one film alleged to be of Nessie showed "a probable animate object". Another world-weary official minuted a monster memo in devious mandarin: "Someone, somewhere, will have responsibility for this." [But indubitably nobody in this department, Minister.]

For the monster in her time has swum as

many parts as synchronised swimmers. She is a valuable summer prop in the wardrobe department of the Scottish Tourist Board, attracting an estimated half a million visitors to Loch Ness each year in the hope of a photo-opportunity. They spend about £25 million in the vicinity. Nessie has been described as a plesiosaur (a marine dinosaur, presumed extinct 70 million years ago), a giant frog, a loch-locked whale trapped in Loch Ness and the mother of all sturgeons.

Fashionable fantasists claim her as an alien sent to observe life on Earth and a ghost capable of transforming herself into solid fishy matter. Rationalists have classified her as a floating log, the wake of a steamer and a seiche (the surface oscillation caused by the great depth and variations of temperature in the waters of Loch Ness). The best photograph of her was exposed as a toy clockwork submarine with a plastic neck. Her first legendary appearance is recorded as 565AD, when she set upon St Columba and his holy band. And she is related to such archetypal monsters of the imagination as Grendel, the Abominable Snowman (Yeti) and the Beast of Bodmin and even Bolsover.

Now the public records have made Nessie official as well as legendary. This is Whitehall's recognition of our best-loved myth, who is even more elusive and cunning at keeping out of hot water than a mandarin.

# Political bias in health authorities

From Mr Selwyn Ward

Sir, I have been a non-executive director of a health authority for several years. I was appointed and reappointed by successive Conservative ministers despite the apparent handicap of having been a prominent Labour councillor and former Labour parliamentary candidate in the predominantly Conservative district of Bromley. I have been all too conscious, however, of being one of a very select minority.

Recently I was invited by a hospital trust in a neighbouring district to participate in the shortlisting of candidates for appointment to the board, as their chairman was a leading local Conservative and they had been told their selection process needed political balance. When I asked why I had been approached, I was told that in a travel through all the chairmen and non-executive directors on health boards and hospital trusts throughout the whole South Thames region, only four names could be found with known political affiliations which were other than Conservative.

If this figure is in any way accurate, the criticisms by Shadow Health Secretary John Maples of recent health service appointments as being politically motivated (report, December 30) smacks somewhat of the pot calling the kettle black.

Yours etc,  
SELWYN WARD,  
2 Newstead Avenue,  
Orpington, Kent BR6 9RL.  
data@enterprize.net  
December 31.

# New Year Honours

From Mr Michael Hill

Sir, Whilst I am sure the recipients of today's New Year Honours are all very worthy people, I do feel that the Palace and the "people's Government" have taken leave of their senses with regard to some of the awards.

It would seem to me that the chauffeur of Princess Diana's hearse was only doing his job, and to single him out from the thousands of other drivers of hearses who are doing similar jobs every day makes no sense.

MBEs and OBEs have been awarded to the military personnel who organised the drilling and training of the bearers of Princess Diana's coffin and those who were involved in the subsequent ceremonial; these men were doing a job that is expected of them and which in no way carries any personal sacrifice.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HILL,  
29 Lowndes Street, SW1X 9HX,  
December 31.

# London's mayor

From Mr T. W. Williams

Sir, How arrogant of Chris Patten even to contemplate the possibility of standing for the new position of mayor of London (report and interview, December 30). He is a failed politician who was decisively rejected by his constituents at the 1992 general election, and given a plum job by his friend John Major as a consolation prize.

Mr Patten should stay in France with his dogs. They deserve him. London deserves better.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM WILLIAMS,  
41 Ridgeway Road,  
Oxford OX3 8DT,  
December 30.

From Mr B. H. Filmer

Sir, When the electors of London have an opportunity to vote for a mayor, I hope they will steer clear of colourful political candidates and vote for a person from the business world with no known political axe to grind.

Yours faithfully,  
BASIL FILMER,  
2 Ryecroft Court,  
Halford Road,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 0SW,  
December 30.

# Olympian charm

From Dr James P. Toomey

Sir, Your leading article (December 27) has the Olympics "slowly returning to the spirit of 1948". Let us hope so, but the essential simplicity and charm of those London Olympics is unlikely to be repeated.

I was one of a number of students who volunteered to make beds and sweep rooms for the athletes from eastern Europe, who were quarantined at West Drayton. There was no pay, as I recall, although we were handsomely fed by the American Army.

The less tangible rewards included watching Emil Zatopek on his training runs around the camp perimeter and being given tickets for the Games by athletes who understandably had no relations to hand. So we bed-makers and floorsweepers sat at the finishing line and watched Fanny Blankers-Koen, your "undoubted star", win her gold medals. They were indeed simple days.

Yours faithfully,  
J. P. TOOMEY,  
3 St Bartholomew's Road,  
Arley Kings, Stourport-on-Severn,  
Worcestershire DY13 0AJ,  
December 28.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

# Naming juveniles accused of crime

From the Editor of Media Lawyer

Sir, I was puzzled by your Home Correspondent's claim ("Why the teenager's identity is kept secret", December 26; see also letters, December 29) that the law prevented the naming of the youth arrested and accused of selling cannabis. The youth is the son of a Cabinet minister.

Your report quotes section 49 of the Children and Young Persons Act of 1933, which says, as amended, that no report of any proceedings in a youth court shall identify a young person concerned in the proceedings.

Some magistrates have given a very wide interpretation to the words "report of any proceedings", but they could hardly be applied where no proceedings have begun. In this case, apparently, the decision whether or not to prosecute has yet to be taken, so there may never be any proceedings.

You did not feel inhibited by such concerns in your treatment earlier this year (report, January 29) of the story of the 16-year-old girl known as Animal who had spent four days in a tunnel protesting at construction work on the A30, and who emerged and was arrested.

You gave considerable prominence on your front page to a cheerful picture of the young woman concerned, and gave her real name. All the national papers except one identified her. There were no protests at her identification and no prosecutions.

The Solicitors' Journal of January 24 reported that the Home Office had

"confirmed" that the law was to be changed to provide anonymity for juveniles accused of offences, even if they were not charged. The journal described the current law as a loophole.

The willingness of a judge to grant an injunction preventing The Sun from naming the youth (report, December 31) has important implications. He has in effect created a new restriction on the media, apparently by accepting the argument that the newspaper, by naming the boy, would impede the course of justice by depriving the court of its power to maintain the young man's anonymity — an entirely novel use of section 2(2) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

If the law is to be changed, should this not be done by Parliament, rather than by a judge, especially in view of the impending incorporation of the Human Rights Convention, with its Article 10 entitlement "to receive and impart information... without interference by public authority"?

What does this event tell us about the Lord Chancellor's assurances to the media, in the privacy versus freedom of information debate (report, November 4), that the freedom of the press will be "in safe hands with our British judges"?

Yours faithfully,  
TOM WELLS,  
Editor, Media Lawyer,  
3 Broome Close,  
Broughton-in-Furness LA20 6JG.  
lawyer@compuserve.com  
December 31.

# Shark attacks

From the Chairman of The Shark Trust

Sir, Inigo Gilmore's account of the fatal shark attack near Cape Town (report, December 30) fuels alarm about the frequency and nature of such accidents on Cape Province coasts. However, data since the 1950s confirm that there is no really discernible increase in white shark attacks off South African or indeed any other coastlines where this rare and increasingly protected — animal ranges.

There is no evidence to suggest that warmer conditions have affected white shark activity on Cape coasts, or that their digestive rates have thus accelerated. These are warm-bodied fish, much like mammals, and the temperature of water makes little difference to their activity levels. Any inference that they may be seeking humans as prey is sheer Hollywood

fantasy. People are completely irrelevant to these versatile and ancient predators. Indeed, the sheer rarity of white shark attacks worldwide speaks volumes in this regard.

I have been enthralled studying the predatory and social behaviour of this spectacular species off the Cape Coast, and analysing, with colleagues from the shark research centre of the South African Museum, their surprisingly complex activity. The great white is only one among 400 shark species worldwide. To demonise it blindly because of sporadic attacks on humans is to do it — and its wider marine environment — a great injustice.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN K. FERGUSSON,  
Chairman, The Shark Trust,  
36 Kingfisher Court,  
Hambridge Road,  
Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5SJ.  
shark.bureau@zoo.co.uk  
December 30.

# Film censorship

From Mr Dave Godin

Sir, Hayden Luke's letter (December 29) questioning the need for reform of the British Board of Film Classification made clear that he had served for many years on a BBFC consultative committee and had observed the board's work at first hand. This is a rare privilege. The major, radical reform needed at the BBFC is openness and transparency.

Many may think that censorship of films for adults is still necessary, but the present conditions of secrecy under which decisions are made mean that any debate on this issue will be unfairly weighted — there is simply not enough information available to the layperson.

# Wide of the mark

From Mr Robert A. Haeger

Sir, As a journalist who covered the events included in your leader "Phoenix Berlin" (December 30), may I venture to point out that Ludwig Erhard did not devise the currency reform of 1948. It was totally a creation of the American, British and French military governments who ruled the three Western zones of occupation. There was no German government. Erhard, a senior figure in "Bizania", a bureaucratic structure under military government control, only learned about the reform a few hours before it was publicly proclaimed.

Konrad Adenauer did not "bless" the reform and, had he done so, it wouldn't have mattered. At the time, he was a dominant figure in the CDU party, but held no official position. His election as the first West German Chancellor lay 15 months in the future.

Sincerely,  
ROBERT A. HAEGER,  
Apt 380,  
2 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3DQ,  
December 31.

From Mr Allen Brown

Sir, Members of the Bundestag may have voted to move themselves "a thousand miles eastwards" in 1999, but are the people of Minsk going to be allowed a say before they all turn up?

Yours faithfully,  
ALLEN BROWN,  
13 Bankfields,  
Headcorn, Kent TN27 9QY.

# Labour pains

From the Reverend Dr Robert T. Halshaw

Sir, I cannot but sympathise with Messrs Coates and Kerr, the Labour MEPs who plan to fight the next European election as protest candidates (report, December 29).

I am a member of the Workington constituency Labour Party (Kewick branch) and have been trying to resign from it since October 17, 1997. All correspondence has been acknowledged and "passed on".

Perhaps I shall have to wait until I myself "pass on" before my wishes are fulfilled.

Yours etc,  
ROBERT T. HALSHAW,  
Castering Manor, Manor Brow,  
Kewick, Cumbria CA12 4AR,  
December 29.

# Road to sainthood

From Mrs Stella Lilley

Sir, We welcome the news that Pope John Paul II has bestowed the title of venerable on Padre Pio (1887-1968), but wish to refute some of the allegations against the Capuchin friar which you report (December 19).

Padre Pio was never a "hermit", and he never "faked" the stigmata. He hid the embarrassing signs completely for many days; but when his superiors discovered the many blood-stained towels and the truth was out, he begged God to take away the visible signs, but not the pain.

Scurrilous reports about his "weakness for women" were discounted decades ago. They were spread by the then Archbishop of Manfredonia, Monsignor Pasquale Gagliardi, who was later indicted for this very offence and removed from office in 1929.

Yours faithfully,  
STELLA LILLEY,  
Padre Pio Information Centre (UK),  
Kingsdown Park House,  
Tankerton, Whitstable CT5 2DF.

# Fax nuisance that traps the unwary

From Dr David Parker

Sir, Am I right in believing a new way of making money from the unwary has been found?

For some time now, I have been receiving questionnaires by fax, which have several things in common. The original fills an A4 page, densely printed, with much text and lots of black areas. The recipient is called upon to add some details to the original and fax it back. The number to which it is to be faxed is always an 0896 number, charged at 100p or 150p per minute, plus VAT. Very little is promised for one's pains.

A recent arrival declared itself to be issued as part of a survey on whether or not Myra Hindley should be released. The language in which it was expressed was scarcely that of a dispassionate seeker after truth. I was urged not only to fax my own views back, but to copy the thing and distribute it. All I was promised was a fax giving the results of the survey. "The maximum duration of returning this form," it said in very small print at the bottom, "is 4 minutes." I could pay up to £4, then, plus VAT, to find out if I ever did, what proportion of the respondents shared my views, what proportion didn't.

Unwary myself, I returned a few early examples of such questionnaires, promising web publicity. At the other end there was always a very slow modem.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID PARKER  
(Curator),  
The Dickens House Museum,  
48 Doughty Street, WCI,  
cdickens@rmpic.co.uk  
December 29.

# Keeping in touch

From Mr Guy Smith

Sir, I am disappointed that you publicising letters (December 12, 15, 26) advocating the use of mobile phones, global positioning systems (GPS) etc, for mountain navigation when too many people are already over-reliant on their wonders.

As a retailer of outdoor equipment with over 2,000 GPS units sold, I confirm they are accurate, portable and easy to use; but weather or terrain will defeat them and batteries fail, let alone those that are dropped in puddles or left at home by accident.

It is far better to learn the rudiments on navigation from a course or good book — increasing experience can then be matched with greater challenges, one's grasp of terrain and pace improves and the sense of reward is enhanced. Preparing a route card that is copied to someone remaining behind, and adhered to, is also an invaluable safety measure.

Human intellect will always prove the most versatile and reliable tool. The others are valuable and have their place — but as support to the first, not substitutes.

Yours faithfully,  
GUY SMITH,  
108 Brookhouse Hill,  
Fulwood, Sheffield S10 3TE,  
December 28.

# Squirrel cull

From Dr Alan R. Del Mar

Sir, Mr Andrew Wells advocates the shooting of grey squirrels, so as to diminish their predation on the nestlings of small birds (letter, December 27).

Before this advice is taken too seriously, thought should also be given to the fact that the grey squirrel is the only serious raider of magpie nests — a fact that has been demonstrated by the explosive increase in the number of magpies thriving small bird eggs following a recent cull of grey squirrels around my property.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN R. DEL MAR,  
Mouse Hall, Ashurst Wood,  
East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 3SQ,  
December 29.

From Mr Jack C. Anderson

Sir, Mr Wells seems keen on killing squirrels because they prey on small birds. Perhaps squirrels should be encouraged because small birds prey on earthworms and small insects.

Better still, perhaps Homo sapiens should leave the natural food chain well alone.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
JACK ANDERSON,  
76 Epsom Lane North,  
Epsom, Surrey KT18 5QA,  
December 27.

# Out of step

From Mr John Parfitt

Sir, The indoctrination of children is worse than Dr David Timson (letter, December 27) thinks. My 10-year-old granddaughter's school now has Roman soldiers marching in kilometric.

Since the Roman army invented the mile and the last of its men hung up his sandals about 1,300 years before the kilometre came along, this must surely be a record anachronism.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.  
JOHN PARFITT,  
St Andrews,  
New Street, Painswick,  
Gloucestershire GL6 6UN,  
December 28.



SOCIAL NEWS

New Year's Day birthdays

Dr Jack Birks, company chairman, 78; Lord Colwyn, 56; Mr John Fuller, writer, 61; Lord Kingsland, QC, 56; Baroness Lloyd of Highbury, 70; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 80; Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 74; Colonel P. Porteous, VC, 80; Mrs Patricia Purdy, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 69; Professor R.A. Raphael, FRSC, chemist, 77; Mr J.D. Salinger, author, 79; Lord Swansea, 73.

Latest wills

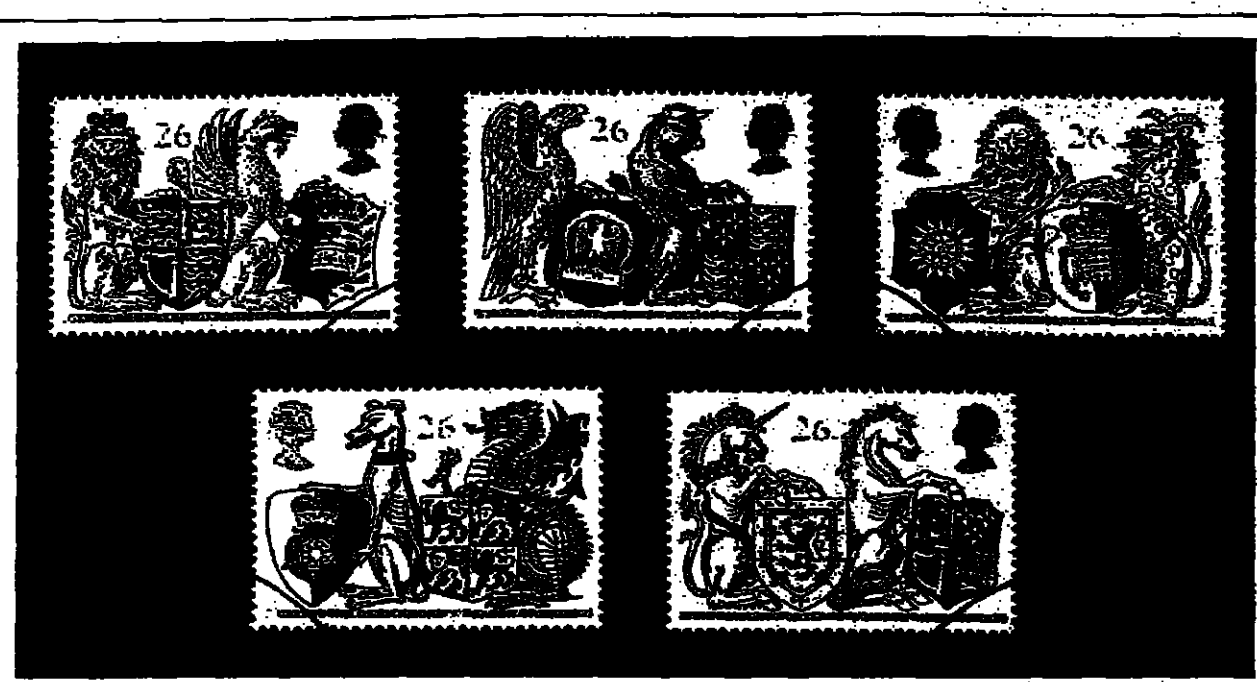
Doreen Mary Worthington, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, left estate valued at £709,586 net. She left £750 to the City of Birmingham symphony Orchestra Development Campaign. Cornelius Nicholaas Ellerbroek of Blofield, Norwich, left estate valued at £671,131 net. Lily Ruth Garrard of Hitcham, Ipswich, left estate valued at £583,704 net. Alice Szeben of London NW2, left estate valued at £524,878 net. Jack Fishman of London N6, left estate valued at £797,724 net. Thomas Victor Lewcock of London N10, left estate valued at £890,202 net. Evelyn Arthur St Clair Dawson of London SW5, left estate valued at £526,428 net. Esther Golda Stern, of London NW6, left estate valued at £623,488 net. Jean Mary Henderson of London NW11, left estate valued at £602,060 net. Wilfred Jones of Llanudno, Conwy, left estate valued at £723,249 net. Ivor David Thomas Greenow, of Crickhowell, Powys, left estate valued at £567,339 net. Mary Whateley, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £791,401 net. She left shares in her estate to the Blue Cross Animals Hospital, PDSA, Battersea Dogs Home, the Donkey Sanctuary, Fiddmouth, the Home for Rest for Horses, RSPB, Birmingham Dogs Home, National Canine Cancer Centre, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Home Farm Trust, the Children's Society, Distressed Gentlefolk Aid Association, the Sue Ryder Foundation, Lord Dowling Fund for Humane Care, the RSPCA, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation and the National Heart Research Fund. Gladys Stella Trill, of Salterton, Devon, left estate valued at £772,716 net.

Church news

Appointments: The Rev Ivor Downe, Honorary Curate, Cowes Holy Trinity and Cowes and St Mary the Virgin (Portsmouth); to be Priest-in-Charge, St Hilary with Ferranathoe (Truro). The Rev Andrew Edwards, Team Vicar, Canford Magna (Salisbury); to be Vicar, Moresby (Carlisle). The Rev Tony Porter, Chaplain, Maidstone General & Psychiatric Hospital, and Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital (Canterbury); to be also Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral (same diocese). The Rev Charles Richardson, Rector, Hastings St Clement and All Saints (Chichester); to be Vicar, East Dulwich St John (Southwark). The Rev John Russell, Assistant Curate, Newport Pagell with Lathbury and Moulsoe (Oxford); to be Priest-in-Charge, Wing Grove (same diocese). The Rev David Shenton, Curate, Thurston (Leicester); to be Team Vicar Designate, Melton Mowbray, and Framland Deanery Youth Officer (same diocese). The Rev Frances Tyler, NSM Assistant Curate, Walsgrave on Soave (Coventry); to be also Diocesan Adviser for Women's Ministry (same diocese). The Rev John Walker, Vicar, Carrington St John the Evangelist (Southwell); to be also Area Dean of Nottingham North (same diocese). The Rev John Wright, Rector, Cheriton St Martin (Canterbury); to be also Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral (same diocese). Retirements and resignations: The Rev Robert Coles, Vicar, Eastbourne St Philip (Chichester) retired December 2. Canon Margaret Parker, Chaplain, St Mary's College, Durham University (Durham) retired November 21, but with permission to officiate. The Rev Michael Tingle, Vicar, Burford with Fulbrook, Teynton, Asthall, Swinbrook and Widford (Oxford) retired October 31. Other appointments: Sister Irene Lees (CA) to be Area Evangelist, Water Eaton (Oxford). Captain Rupert Hankey (CA), Parish Evangelist, Worthing St George (Chichester); to be Team Evangelist, Walton Holy Trinity (Oxford).

Legal retirements

Judge Hamilton has retired from the Northern Circuit Bench and Judge Harrison-Hall has retired from the Midland and Oxford Circuit Bench.



A set of stamps called 'The Queen's Beasts' goes on sale in February to mark the 650th anniversary of the Order of the Garter. The heraldic beasts include the Lion of England, the Dragon of Wales and the Unicorn of Scotland.

Bones show Stone Age bear was kept as pet

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE bones of what may have been one of Europe's first pets have been found in a French cave. A bear cub, captured when only a few months old, was fitted with a muzzle showing that it had been tamed. The muzzle had cut into its jawbone as it grew to adult size. The jawbone, dating back some 7,000 years, was found in Mesolithic deposits at La Grande-Rivoire, on the edge of the Alps south of Chambéry. The inhabitants had hunted red deer and wild boar as well as ibex and chamois, and at some point had acquired the brown bear cub.

Between its lower molars on both sides was a concave space, eroding the roots of the flanking teeth and cutting down into the top of the jawbone "as if a foreign body had restricted the growth of the molars, forcing them to tilt towards each other", the Swiss archaeozoologist Louis Chaix and his colleagues report. "Our assumption is that a rigid tie had been placed round the lower jaw, after the eruption of the first molar and before that of the second molar, when the animal was between four and seven months old," they say. "If this hypothesis is true, then a young bear cub must have been caught and kept in

captivity by means of the bone around its jaw. This captivity must have lasted for several years, as the bear died at around six years of age, well after it reached sexual maturity. "The bear must have been fed and looked after and its periodically replaced: since Mesolithic populations had an itinerant lifestyle, the animal must have followed the human group." The type of restraint is unusual: bears are normally controlled by metal rings and chains when they are kept as dancing animals in the Middle East today, and the flexible tie, perhaps of leather, might have caused much less discomfort while preventing escape. The bear could have been a pet or performer. However, its relatively ear-



The brown bear is often depicted in early art

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent), Florence, 1449; Huldreich Zwingli, Swiss reformer, Wildhaus, 1484; Katherine Philips, poet, London, 1631; Paul Revere, American patriot, Boston, Massachusetts, 1735; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackbourn, Oxfordshire, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; E.M. Forster, novelist, London, 1879; William Fox, film producer, Hoxing, 1879; Martin Niemöller, anti-Nazi priest, Lippstadt, Germany, 1892; J. Edgar Hoover, founder of the FBI, Washington, 1895; H.A.R. (Kim) Philby, British double agent, Ambala, India, 1911. DEATHS: William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; James Francis Edward Stuart, the 'Old Pretender', Rome, 1766; Johann Christian Bach, composer, London, 1782; Heinrich Hertz, physicist, Bonn, 1894; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, actor and singer, Paris, 1972; John Aloysius Costello, Prime Minister of Ireland, 1948-51, and 1954-57, 1976. The Daily Universal Register (renamed The Times on January 1, 1788), was founded, 1785. Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into force, 1801. The Commonwealth of Australia was established with Edmund Barton as the first Prime Minister, 1901. The British Broadcasting Corporation (formerly 'Company') put its first programmes, 1927. The farthing ceased to be legal tender, 1961. Britain entered the Common Market, 1973.

The Ministry of Defence announces the following RAF Promotions effective from today:

Air Rank Promotions: Air Commodore to Air Vice-Marshal: K D Filby; P O Surley; I Brackenbury; P W Henderson. Group Captain to Air Commodore: J Connolly, R L Dixon, N J Day, N E Taylor, A P Walker, A C Lang, G E Willis, J C O Lutz. General Duties Branch: Wing Commander to Group Captain: I Capewell; D J Drew; G H Edge; G R Evans; R W Henry; J Middleton; R H Middleton; W K D Morrow; S L Perkins; P D Soffman; M C Stringer; G Walton; D H White; T J Wood. Squadron Leader to Wing Commander: I T Ashcroft; P A Atherton; S B J Barber; J K Bell; M W Brown; G C A Buckley; D Burley; D M I Byes; K Dobb; M Dwyer; S G Footers; S M Fox; A D Fryer; R Goodall; P N Harborne; A P Hawes; G M Hewett; M R Hill; J Horrocks; S J Howard; A D Huggitt; M J Jenkins; J M Kennedy; T R Kirkin;

RAF half-yearly promotions

P O Lloyd; G W MacInnes; K B McCann; T P McWilliams; M J Mercer; G Moulds; S Newton; P C Osborn; J V Plumb; R M Poole; D L Prosser; D G Robertson; J H Scholten; N I M Seward; A D Stevenson; P R Sutton; J D Teakle; G E Thwaites; D J Trembuck; R Dyer. Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader: R M Adams; D R Andrew; W J Arathoun; D R Armstrong; R C Bailey; A W L Balam; R Barker; N J Barr; P J Beach; S M Beardmore; P A Bell; T Bennington; J C Bettany; J B Bowen; A D Brown; M F Brown; R P Bruce; T J Bullman; S C Burch; L D Calderwood; M W Camard; S R Chaskin; R J S Clark; M R Cobb; J B Conway; D J E Cooper; J W Craig; N G Crier; A Collins; C D Darville; R A Duller; M R Davies; E A Elliott; H J Elliot; L Fisher; D A Fones; J F Footes; R Forbes; C J Ford; K E Fowler; A J Gent; J J Gray; H M Griffiths; J R A Grime; P K Harrison; C N Hastings; S D Hayler; R A Hinchcliffe; B G Jackson; R S James; W A W James; C Jones; C Jones; D J F Lee; P J Lines; A B Lovell; R H Lovell; D M Lumb; I J MacFarlane; A C Marson; D Mason; G Mason; R I D Mavor; S A Mitchell; J M Vagg; M W Vickers; D J Waddington; R Walker-Morgan; P M Ward; W H J Webber; R J Wesley; D K White; J M Wilson. Operations Support Branch: Wing Commander to Group Captain: D R E Evans; I A McFhee; B E Rogers. Squadron Leader to Wing Commander: D L Andrew; M Axelsen; D J Brook; A Bullen; R Burn; A J A Currie; M R Davies; A P Days; G J Dennis; A D Edge; M C Evers; R Gowling; R Grainger; J A Hand; N J Hardley; I M Hurst; D Kelsey; S Knott; A R Legg; M J Manger; A P Nicholls; M J Northover; N R Powell; D M Rhimes; H Roberts; A M Sanson; J D C Savage; F E A Smith; R Tandy; A J Tyrrell; I Ward; S M J Webster; A J Weston; S W Wray. Supply Branch: Wing Commander to Group Captain: N R Chandler; J H Thompson. Squadron Leader to Wing Commander: J D Allen; P J Cannon; A T Gell; P J Thompson. Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader: E J A Barclay; A R Curtis; C E Doe; M K Dunn; R Flint; R J Hale; R Hill; J G Perryman; R W Roberts; S J A Sharpe; C B Temper-Koe. Administrative Branch: Wing Commander to Group Captain: S F J Lilley; P L Watson. Squadron Leader to Wing Commander: S E Bonell; I K Buchanan; D C Coombes; J Harrison; D I Ogg; G A Ogle; A L Pym; C L Smith; P C Smith. Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader: A A Aderyn; P W Anderson; D R Astwood; L P Ball; J E Beaton; J Bradstock; G J Bruce; K J Bruff; C A Campbell; J C Daniels; N A D Sayer; H J A Fine; De Salt; T J Fenton; P C Fiddy; D G T Gray; C A Hobkirk; M J Hollingsworth; S A Isaac; P A Jackson; R Jennings; A N Morgan; A G Polomeque; S F Peoples; A W Riches; C W Todd; R J Tudor; M J Turner; I A Williams. Medical Secretariat Branch: Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader: G W B MacDonald; C A Stanforth. Medical Branch: Group Captain to Air Cdre: E J Thornton. Wing Commander to Group Captain: A N Graham-Canning. Legal Branch: Group Captain to Air Cdre: R A Charles. Wing Commander to Group Captain: J K E Barlow; W H Boothby;

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F. Barton and Miss M.H. Broom. The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of the late Mr Thomas Barton and of Mrs Pamela Gray, of Bradford, Somerset, and Miranda Helen, elder daughter of Mr Robert Broom, of Stoke Prior, Herefordshire, and Mrs Thomas Coupland, of Swanton, Hampshire. Mr D.S.P. Bonall and Miss R.C. Lambourne. The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Bonall, of St Omer, Jersey, and Rebecca, daughter of the Rev John and Mrs Lambourne, of Robertsbridge, East Sussex. Mr G.A.H. Coates and Miss J.B. Coxe. The engagement is announced between George, son of the late Mr William Coates and of Mrs Cecily of Domesday St Mary, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Coxe, of Killybegs, Kenya. Mr R.C.J. Coyle and Miss S.P.B. Doherty. The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs P.D. Murrell, of Lindfield, West Sussex, and Deborah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.I. Franks, of Gosforth, Northumberland. Mr P.H. Newman and Miss S.E.R. Goddard. The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr Michael Newman, of Plymouth, Devon, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Goddard, of Caveston, Berkshire. Mr T.R.A.C. Potter and Miss S.A. Bradshaw. The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Potter, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Selly, eldest daughter of Dr John Bradshaw, MBE, and Mrs Bradshaw, of Glastonbury, Somerset. Dr R.S.S. Roden and Miss M.M. McElroy. The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Martin Roden, of Pine Ridge, Astwood Bank, Worcester-shire, and Maureen, youngest daughter of the late Mr Hugh McElroy, of Greenbelt, Maryland, USA. Mr D.G. Silver and Miss K.J. Brookes. The engagement is announced between Damian, son of Mr and Mrs Ivan Silver, of the New Forest, Hampshire, and Katherine, daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs Andrew Brookes, of Bracknell, Berkshire. Mr R.M. Stanley and Miss E.S. Casson. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr Raymond Stanley, of Sale, Cheshire, and the late Mr Stanley, and Emily, daughter of Mr Nick Casson, of Brile, Isle of Man, and Mrs David Lomas, and granddaughter of Mr David Lomas, of Ollerton, Cheshire. Flight Lieutenant D.P. Thompson and Miss C.S. Reid. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Thompson, of Strath-bane, Strathgairn, and Cairn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander Reid, of Newport-on-Tay, Fife. Jonathan A. van Doors and Miss C.A. Eusey. The engagement is announced between Alistair, son of Jonathan, Ronald and Mrs Doors, and Mrs Fred Sanders-Hodges, both of Wassenar, The Netherlands, and Camilla Anne, elder daughter of Major and Mrs James Henney, of Great Brimley, Essex. Mr P.F. White and Miss R.I. MacKintosh MacLeod. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs David White, of Trent, Dorset, and Iona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael MacKintosh MacLeod, of Woolley, Herefordshire; Dr N.W. Gunnarsson and Dr N.D. Forrester. The engagement is announced between Nigel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Gunnarsson, of Darrington, Pontefract, and Nerys, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Rappert, of Sunderland. The marriage will take place in New College, Oxford, in July.

Royal visits

The Princess Royal, as President, Royal Yachting Association, will attend the International Boat Show, Centre Court, Exhhibition Centre, London SW5, on January 14. The Queen, as Honorary Air Commodore, will visit RAF Marham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, on February 19.

University news

Cambridge: Dr Roger Leigh, deputy director of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at Rothamsted, has been elected Professor of Botany. King's College: Melville John Da Cruz has been elected into a non-stipendiary research fellowship.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES: MARRIAGE - On January 1st 1928 at Trinity Church... DEATHS: MARRIAGE - On January 1st 1928 at Trinity Church... BIRTHS: MARRIAGE - On January 1st 1928 at Trinity Church...

DEATHS: MARRIAGE - On January 1st 1928 at Trinity Church... DEATHS: MARRIAGE - On January 1st 1928 at Trinity Church...

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OBITUARIES

RONALD SYMONDS

Ronald Symonds, CB, former Deputy Director-General of M15, died on December 21 aged 81. He was born on June 25, 1916.

RONNIE SYMONDS, like so many of his generation at M15, was caught up in the great molehounding scare of the 1960s. Various names had been put on the suspect list of senior members of the Security Service who might have been in a position to spy for the Russians. The list included Sir Roger Hollis, who was Director-General, and Graham Mitchell, his deputy.

Symonds was then a senior officer in "D" branch - counter-espionage. His first

report outlined the history of allegations of penetration of M15 and concluded that there was a strong likelihood that a spy codenamed at a high level inside the Security Service. His report was sent to Hollis and to Sir Dick White, who was Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS).

He was subsequently asked to produce a second report to try to clear up the matter once and for all - and to pinpoint the guilty man, if there was one. By 1964, M15 colleagues such as Peter Wright (of Spycatcher notoriety) had become convinced that the spy was Hollis, not Mitchell. Symonds produced what he hoped would be a definitive report after an eight-month study, but Peter Wright and another more senior M15 man, Arthur Martin, were still not satisfied.

Ronald Charters Symonds was the son of Sir Charles Symonds, who was consulting physician to Guy's Hospital.

He was educated at Rugby School and New College, Oxford, where he read French and German. In 1938 he joined the British Council. The following year he embarked on war service and was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps, where his fluent German was a considerable asset.

He met his future wife, Pamela, at Oxford, where they were students together. They married in November 1939 and had three children, Andrew, David and Joanna.

He ended the war as a major, having served as chief instructor for those joining the Control Commission in Germany and as Director of Studies at the Civil Affairs Staff Centre. He was awarded the United States Bronze Star. On demobilisation he rejoined the British Council in 1946.

In 1951, he decided to look elsewhere for employment and joined the Security Service. His first five years were spent in the counter-subver-

sion branch, punctuated by a spell of nine months in Singapore, where he was security adviser to the Governor.

He worked in M15's protective security branch for ten years and was detached for a year to the Civil Service Department, serving as secretary and adviser to the committee of inquiry into protective security procedures that had been set up under Lord Hailsham.

He worked for five years in the counter-espionage branch, where he was responsible for a series of complex and delicate investigations, including one which led to the arrest and conviction of Frank Brossard, a civil servant in the British military establishment who was a Soviet spy.

It was during this period that he wrote his meticulous assessments of the Mitchell case, as part of the investigation into possible Soviet penetration of the Security Service.

Contrary to some books written about this era of mole-

hunting paranoia, Symonds became finally convinced of Mitchell's innocence. By the time of his second report, Anthony Blunt had confessed to spying for the Russians, and Symonds concluded that he was the spy they had all been looking for. Hollis agreed and Mitchell was cleared of all allegations.

Symonds was personally upset when it was subsequently suggested that he had retained doubts about Mitchell, and even considered libel action. But in those days M15 was firmly concealed in the shadows as far as the public was concerned, and it was felt that legal redress was inappropriate.

He was appointed Deputy Director-General in 1972 and assumed temporary charge of M15 between December 1973 and March 1974 when Michael Hanley, the Director-General, was ill.

He was appointed CB in 1975 and retired a year later.

For the next two years he served on the staff of the Royal Commission on Gambling and from 1978 to 1981 he was a consultant to ICI, advising on the safety and security of employees working overseas. During this time he travelled extensively to Central and South America.

In his retirement he became an enthusiastic grandfather and great-grandfather. He once bumped into a former M15 colleague in a foodstore and, when asked what he was doing, he pointed to the child buggy he was pushing. He took his grandfather role seriously. He also loved bird-watching and walking and remained active until he fell in the street in Islington where he lived with his daughter; he died from post-operative complications after a hip replacement operation.

His wife died in 1996 and he also lost his son Andrew. He is survived by his other son and daughter.



DANILO DOLCI

Daniilo Dolci, Italian sociologist and social campaigner, died on December 30 aged 73. He was born on June 23, 1924.

Daniilo Dolci was a crusader for the Sicilian poor in their struggle against the misery imposed through the terror of the Mafia and the apathy of the central Italian Government. He was often likened to Gandhi - like him he was an advocate of nonviolent means and civil disobedience to further his objects; like him, he used public fasts and marches to shame the authorities into action.

Unlike him, however, Dolci was not fighting for the independence of his territory from imperial rule, but from the rule of the Mafia, which viewed any attempts at reform as an outrage on its entrenched social system. He was, in a sense, in Aldous Huxley's words, "the ideal 20th-century saint".

Dolci's fight against poverty in one of the most underdeveloped parts of Europe was as passionate as Schweitzer's against disease in Africa had been. Philanthropist that he was, Dolci saw that education was not only the antidote his poor needed to promote self-help; it was also a means of helping to eradicate the Mafia and murders of the Mafia bandits. His campaign against "the colonial way" in which the central Government treated the island was to have its results, in time, in the construction of two important dams. He also roused the conscience of his country and the rest of Europe.

Daniilo Dolci, the son of a station master, on the Italian railways, was born at Sezana, a village near Trieste, in what later became Yugoslavia. He owed to his mother, a Slovenian. The young Dolci studied architecture at Rome and Milan, and for a time practised in northern Italy.

But his real vocation lay in social work. It was at one time a follower of the Rev Zeno Saltini, a Roman Catholic priest who founded a community for children and adults uprooted through the Second World War. Saltini's efforts



Daniilo Dolci signing copies of his books for young admirers after a London meeting to discuss his work in 1963

ended, however, in financial loss and disavowal by the Church. Dolci himself drifted away from the Church.

In 1952 Dolci visited Sicily to examine the Greek temple ruins. It was the misery of the poor, however, which kept him in Sicily. He settled at Trappeto, a village on the western tip of the island, where his father had once been the station master, and which he had described as the poorest place on earth.

Dolci arrived with a few old clothes, and the equivalent of fourpence in his pocket. He married the widow of a peasant who had died after being attacked by bandits. His wife already had five children; she now had another five by Dolci. To the dismay of the parish priest, they were never baptised.

In 1955 Dolci went on a fast in Trappeto when certain public works, impatiently awaited by the jobless there, were delayed by red tape. He carried out the fast lying on a palliase in a dark basement where a baby had just died of starvation. His protest worked. The Sicilian regional authorities sent emergency funds and other help to Trappeto.

Dolci's target then became a

desolate town west of Palermo, Partinico. Here he used his celebrated "strike-in-reverse" technique - based on a traditional southern Italian measure of doing work with the hope of some gains from the fruits, rather than not doing any work at all. Dolci's territory, however, was a public road, which he and his followers set about mending in 1956. This was something the authorities could not ignore. Dolci was arrested and finally imprisoned for the "illegal occupation of public land".

His action, however, had moved left-wing intellectuals and writers such as Alberto Moravia, who was editing a magazine which then published some of Dolci's accounts of life in Trappeto and Partinico. Again, the authorities were provoked, and Dolci was sentenced in a Rome court under the obscenity laws. After he had criticised Italy's social policy in Sweden, his passport was withdrawn, but under pressure from the intellectuals, the Government eventually relented and returned it. In 1958 Dolci won a Lenin Peace Prize, which he said he accepted in a "non-political spirit". At home, he made some progress when, in

1960, the Senate voted for an investigation into the activities of the Mafia.

But always it seemed as if in the end the Mafia would have the upper hand. In 1956, for instance, planning for a £6 million irrigation dam behind Partinico had begun. Three years later the call for tenders by the southern Treasury was boycotted by the Sicilians. The following year a Rome firm won the contract. The Mafia used the landowners' justifiable fear of non-compensation to block the project, causing the Government to pay damages of £250,000 for the delay.

In time Dolci won through to a certain extent. By 1967, the construction of two important dams had begun - one at Belice, which would bring work to the poverty-stricken valley of 120,000 people. As a community planner - architect that he was - he wanted three more dams built.

He continually fought for the teaching of new farming methods, more medical aid, and the abolition of illiteracy and child labour so common in Sicily. As a social worker, however, he was the despair of his own followers: three times his organisation at Partinico met with crises, with groups of

his associates leaving him, no longer able to abide his austerity and vague methods.

With money raised by sympathisers around the world, he built a hall called "The University", where he tackled illiteracy. He started more schools. He published influential books on Sicily and his way of life there, widely translated and discussed.

In 1967 Dolci was given a suspended sentence and fined for defaming Bernardo Mattarella, a former Foreign Trade Minister. The case had arisen from Dolci's report to the parliamentary commission investigating Mafia activities. In it, he had dealt with the alleged connection of Sicilian politicians with the Mafia.

Dolci's reputation was, perhaps inevitably, higher outside Italy than within. He was an international celebrity throughout the 1960s, making extensive and well-publicised foreign tours, writing prolifically, giving countless interviews and attracting many thousands of idealistic young people to Sicily to study first-hand the conditions he was striving to improve. So-called "Dolci committees" were set up in Britain and elsewhere to raise funds in support of his work. As recently as 1982 he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The world's attention eventually moved on to more glamorous causes, however, leaving Dolci to continue his Sicilian projects in comparative obscurity, and in the knowledge that many of his early aims had been at least in part fulfilled. Dolci was twice married. In addition to the five children from his first marriage there were two from his second: all survive him.

HERRICK BUNNEY

Herrick Bunney, CVO, organist and choirmaster, died in Edinburgh on December 17 aged 82. He was born in London on May 12, 1915.

TO SAY that Herrick Bunney was one of the finest church organists of his generation is to underestimate his influence - on choral music in general, on the appreciation of Bach's organ works in particular, and on the congregations and singers whom he inspired during his 50 years as organist and master of music at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

His lasting legacy may be in the integration of music and liturgy which came to its peak under the current minister at St Giles, the Rev Gillesbuig Macmillan. Between them they transformed the dryness of its Presbyterian services into a religious and musical creation of great power.

A recent visitor from the south, having listened, enthralled, to Bunney's organ-playing, Macmillan's preaching and the music of the cathedral choir, was moved to remark: "I wonder what the Church of England might have been like if it had been blessed with a liturgy like that."

In retrospect, it was Edinburgh's great good fortune that Bunney came north, for he could easily have been organist or master of the music at any of England's great cathedrals. Born and brought up in London, he studied at the Royal College of Music, where, as a pianist, he came to the attention of Sir Malcolm Sargent, who conducted him in a Rachmaninoff concerto.

After graduating, he became organist at All Souls, Langham Place. Later, as a choral conductor, he would work with maestros such as Bruno Walter, Otto Klemperer and Thomas Beecham. His nine years as conductor of the

Elizabethan Singers in London and his organ professorship at the Royal College established a reputation that was to spread far beyond the confines of St Giles.

He applied for the organist's post in Edinburgh after war service in the Royal Signals, during which he was liaison officer with the Polish forces in Italy, and, memorably, gave a recital in the bomb-damaged cathedral of Ghent shortly after its liberation. It was during this time that he met and married Dr Mary Cutting, who was in the Royal Army Medical Corps. They arrived in Edinburgh in 1946, just as that city was launching its International Festival in the grim postwar era. Bunney joined the festival programme panel and from the start was musical director of the service at St Giles which marks the start of every festival.

Bach was the composer to whom he felt closest, and it was as conductor of the Edinburgh Choral Union and the Edinburgh University Singers that he produced some of his most inspiring performances, notably the annual Easter performances of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in the 1960s.

Bunney had a pronounced sense of drama. When things were difficult, he would summon up every ounce of energy. When things were going well, he would lean back, one hand behind him, the other conducting lightly. Among the highlights of his career were the four complete cycles of Bach's organ works he presented at the Edinburgh Festival, but he also taught piano, organ and musicianship at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, and in 1964 he founded the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra, remaining chairman until the mid-1980s.

His musical tastes ranged wide, from Debussy and Ravel to Messiaen and Kenneth Leighton, whose *Mass for Double Choir* he first conduct-

ed. He organised weekly recitals at the cathedral from 1962 to 1986. The sounds he produced from the old organ in the north transept of St Giles were extraordinary, particularly in view of that instrument's deficiencies, which often meant a three-quarter of a second delay between pressing the keys and producing a note. He called it "the old bus", and once used an old pair of trousers to block off a particularly troublesome bass pipe.

Then, in 1992, thanks to a gift from a generous donor, Alastair Salvesen, a new Austrian Rieger organ was installed in the cathedral - a splendid instrument painted bright red, which produced music of a clarity and power which enhanced immeasurably the musical potential of St Giles. "The old bus" was dismantled, the trousers were retrieved, and Bunney made full use of the new organ, delighting congregations with a repertoire which included 30 mass settings and more than 180 motets, anthems and canticles. The B Minor Mass continued to be an annual highlight.

Appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order in 1964, he was advanced to CVO 20 years later and to CVO in 1996. A fellow of the Royal College of Music and an honorary fellow of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, he was also made an honorary fellow of Edinburgh University in 1990. A man of great courtesy and eloquence, with a dry humour which always succeeded in puncturing pomposity, he was greatly loved by two generations of singers and players, for whom he was both role model and inspiration.

Bunney's favourite relaxation was walking in the Peeblesshire hills. He retired in 1996 at the age of 81, but all too soon prostate cancer was diagnosed. He leaves his widow, a son and a daughter.



PERSONAL COLUMN

Advertisement for personal services including AIRLINK, WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS, TRAILFINDERS, and FLIGHT CENTRE.

Advertisement for SKYWRITING AT NIGHT and ON THIS DAY, featuring a skywriting projector and historical information.



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NEWS

Minister's son may be spared court

The police have decided they do not want to take a Cabinet minister's son to court for drug dealing. They have recommended to the Crown Prosecution Service that the 17-year-old should be cautioned or face no action at all. The boy is accused of selling cannabis to a *Mirror* reporter, who has been arrested for possession, but the minister has said that he will name him if he is not prosecuted. Pages 1, 2

Diana grave black market feared

Earl Spencer is worried that tourists will try to cash in when tickets to visit Althorp, where his sister is buried, go on sale next week. French police are meanwhile investigating a witness report that a Fiat Uno was driven erratically from the tunnel where Diana, Princess of Wales was killed. Pages 1, 2

Monster headache

Nessie has been a thorn in the side of ministers, bureaucrats and the police over three decades, with civil servants desperately trying to shift responsibility between departments. Page 1

Playing FTSE

The Stock Exchange closed 20 minutes early as authorities tried to stamp out manipulation of the year-end FTSE 100 index closing figure. Pages 1, 40

Sea rescue

A policeman clung to the skids of a helicopter as it hovered over the sea off South Wales so that he could rescue an unconscious woman from drowning. Page 3

Island clash

Tony Blair's Seychelles holiday home is the subject of an £18 million wrangle. The estate was confiscated from its former owners by President René. Page 4

Chaffinch rules

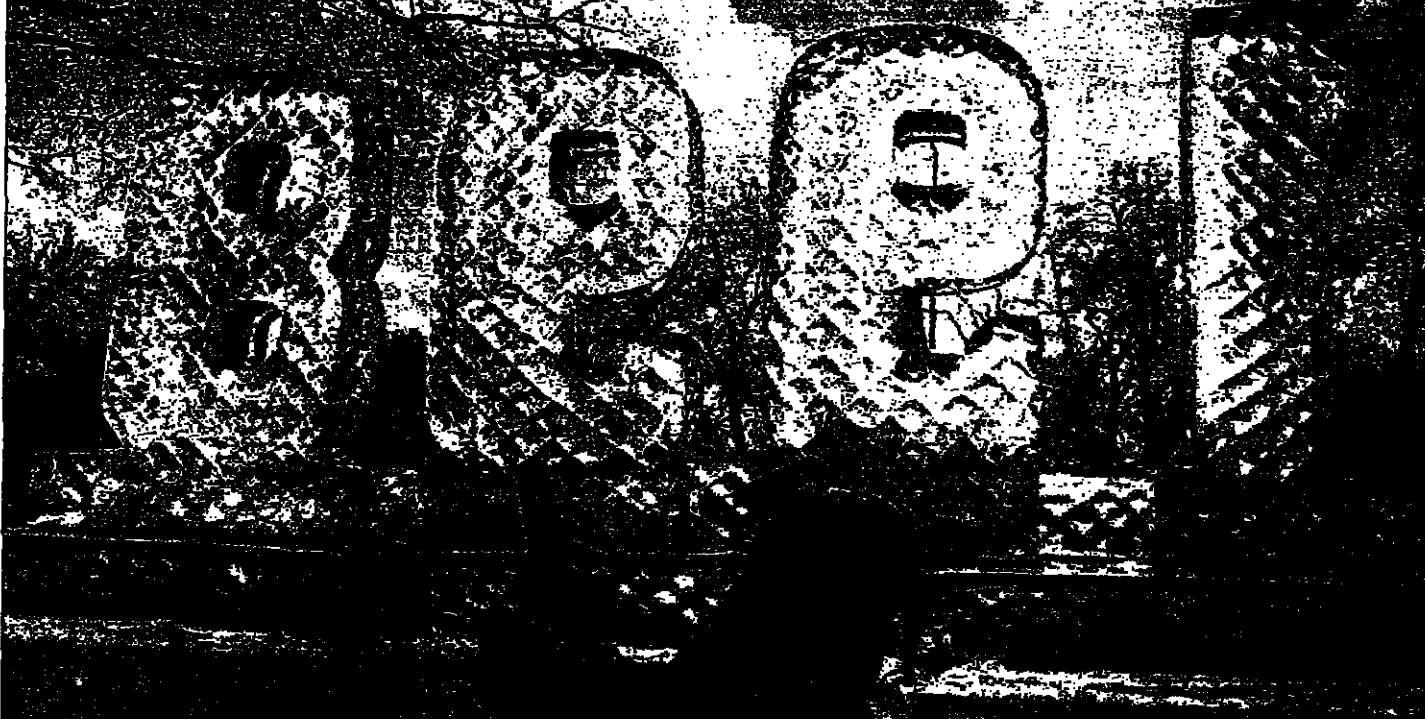
The chaffinch is Europe's most prolific bird, with 133 million breeding pairs — 25 million more than the house sparrow. The great tit comes third, while the robin and willow warbler share fourth place. Page 5

Aids man freed

A Cypriot fisherman jailed for infecting his British girlfriend with Aids, was pardoned after she called for his immediate release. Page 6

Suncream, none, troops for the use of

Irish soldiers who were sunburnt while on duty abroad are suing their Government for failing to supply suncream. The claims join a growing list of proceedings against the defence department. About 10,000 troops claim they were deafened on the firing range and dozens more want compensation for hearing loss after playing in the army band. Page 3



Henry Gano, kitchen artist at the Dorchester, gets to work with his chainsaw on the new year ice sculpture outside the hotel.

Ladbroke: The hotel and gaming group is expected to announce the acquisition of the Coral betting shop chain from Bass for around £400 million. Page 40

Mutual appreciation: Mutual building societies, which have long argued that they offer better rates for members than shareholder-owned banks, have had their claims vindicated in a new survey. Page 40

Advance planning: Anxious companies are cancelling all leave at the end of 1999 to guard against the failure of their computer systems. Page 40

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 3.2 points to close at 5355.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.5 to 104.4. Page 37

Football: Fifa called on the British Government to relent and allow Fritz Schmid, the Swiss fitness trainer, to join Tottenham Hotspur's coach, Christian Gross, without delay. Page 21

Cricket: The England bowler Darren Gough has withdrawn from the tour party to the West Indies after the recurrence of a hamstring injury. Page 21

Rugby union: Bottom-of-the-table Bristol beat Harlequins 40-38 in a remarkable first division match. Harlequins let slip an 18-point lead. Page 21

Racing: In a new year message Lord Wakeham, chairman of the British Horseracing Board, sought to cloak the sport's dreams in political reality. Page 26

Good night in (1): Films released on video this week include the crude but exhilarating *Beavis and Butt-Head Do America*; the crude but well-dressed *The Fifth Element*; and *Fierce Creatures*, John Cleese's sequel to *A Fish Called Wanda*. Page 28

Good night in (2): The best new classical CDs reviewed include a marvellous romp through Shostakovich's Muscovite operetta *Cheremushki*, and a four-CD celebration of the career of pianist Murray Perahia. Page 28

Good night out: Geoff Brown reviews the week's film releases, from the sci-fi blockbuster *Starship Troopers* to Helena Bonham Carter's latest period excursion in *The Wings of the Dove*. Page 29

Last, begone: "Good resolutions may help the testosterone-rich to control their lust but will not remove their fantasies." Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the barriers that stand in the way of New Year resolutions. Page 14

Being pain: Ariginal pain can be hard to diagnose. Often, it may cause gripping sensation in the chest or even the tooth — and many people have been mistakenly referred to a dentist. Page 14

Great escapes: One young couple took off for the Shetland Isles to renovate their open-plan guesthouse, another went with their toddler to a hilltop in Gloucestershire to run a restaurant. Peter Foster found out whether their escape to the rural life worked. Page 15

Join underground: Malcolm Bradbury hails *Underworld*, Don DeLillo's latest novel; Erica Wagner ventures into the heart of New York's gay Hattersley considers the *Thelma Paradox*. Pages 30, 31

In countries as misgoverned and tribally divided as Kenya, holding elections is not enough to assure democratic government. Radical electoral reforms, as well as the retirement of President Moi, will be needed before Kenya can join Africa's growing list of viable democracies. — *The New York Times*



Photo: [unreadable]

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

ARTS  
Eternally yours? David Sinclair picks the best Christmas compilation CDs

EDUCATION  
Britain is generous with money for schools, but are there better ways to use education funding?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,677

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-29. Includes clues for Across and Down.

- ACROSS
1 Like this clue, a mixture (6).
5 Put an end to call for strike (8).
10 Nod off — it's almost twelve (4).
11 Property of extremely rare beer, say (4,6).
12 Went off, we hear, for the duration of the Trojan war (6).
13 Open the sack and plunder (8).
14 Game providing poor source of revenue given no backing (9).
18 One going downhill shot in the air (5).
19 Misbehave in court after serve (3,2).
20 Moving tale can do as a story (9).
24 Parisian tripper, originally Sudanese (8).
25 It provides support as soldiers go in after breakthrough (6).
26 Lacking cash when ordering drinks, it might be said (2,3,5).
27 Sort of vehicle used by single man (4).
28 Naval force retreating one hour later (8).
29 Doubly good-hearted cat in children's stories (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,676. A grid of letters with words like CURACY, TALKSHOW, LIBERATION, etc.

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0330 444 910. Includes sections for Weather by Fax and World City Weather.

Car reports by fax. New and used car reports from the AA, costs of 170 cars. Includes contact information for AA.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996.

TOP OF THE POPS. What makes Cedar Waps most popular? Includes list of artists and their chart positions.

General. It will turn wet everywhere with the wind strengthening, and getting up to gale force in many parts. Rain will sweep quickly eastwards, some of it heavy. The rain will clear Northern Ireland during the early afternoon but it will then turn colder with blustery showers. The colder, brighter but showery weather will spread across Scotland and into western parts of England and Wales by the end of the afternoon. The South East will start dry and bright but the rain will last into the evening. The Irish Republic will be wet and very windy, possibly with severe gales, with thundery showers later.

London, SE England, E Anglia: Bright at first but turning wet and windy in the afternoon. Strong southerly wind. Max 11C (52F).
Central S, NE, E England, Midlands, Channel Isles: Rain in the morning and lasting through the day. Strong southerly wind. Max 11C (52F).
SW, NW, Cant. N England, Wales, Lakes: Very windy with rain, clearing to give showers by evening. Shows to give force southerly wind. Max 11C (52F).
Ile of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll: Very windy with heavy rain but becoming brighter this afternoon with the odd shower. Strong to gale force southerly wind, veering southwesterly later. Max 11C (52F).

Table of weather forecasts for various UK locations including Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, Manchester, etc. Columns include Sun, Rain, Max, Min.

Table of temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. Includes locations like Newcastle, London, Manchester, etc.



Changes to chart below from noon: Low R moves east and B1. High M should persist over eastern Mediterranean. Low S expected to move NE, eventually becoming an intense feature over the UK.

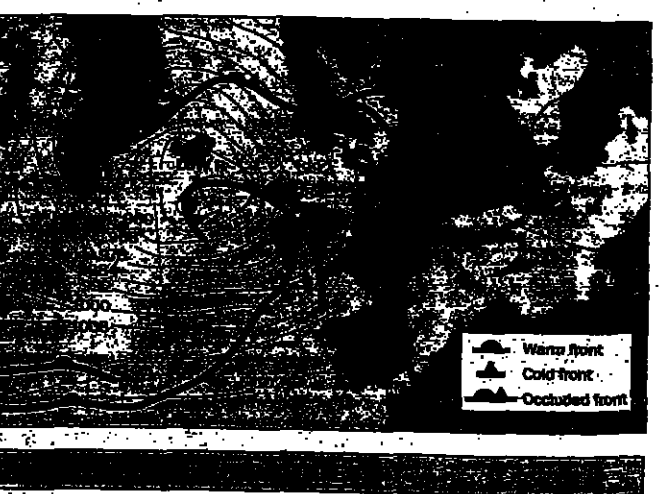


Table of weather forecasts for various UK locations including Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, Manchester, etc. Columns include AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT.







RUGBY UNION: REARGUARD ACTION PROVES VITAL IN TITLE CHASE

Leaders state powerful case for the defence

IF A chorus of Blaydon Races did not echo from the windows of Newcastle's Kingston Park ground last night, as 1997 marched out, many will wonder why Newcastle got into a new year with the only unbeaten record in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership and no doubt buoyed up, crucially, by ending the old one with victory at Leicester.

In some respects, their 25-19 success at Welford Road resembled the match that Leicester played against Saracens on Boxing Day, when the London club established a five-point lead with ten minutes remaining but their inability to close out Leicester cost them a single-point defeat. On a murky Midland evening on Tuesday, Newcastle grasped a six-point lead with nine minutes remaining and were resolute enough to hang on, even with the Leicester pack battering away



Lam: influential

Reds face an uneven trial

THOUGH Scottish Rugby Union officials claimed yesterday that neither side had seniority, there were shades of probabilities v possibilities when the teams for the Scotland trial next week were named. Rob Wainwright, the international captain, leads a Blue XV packed with experience. Cammy Murray, who has been playing full back for Hawick and is selected on the wing for the Border Reivers this weekend, is the only uncapped player in the back division, at centre.

By contrast, the Reds XV, led by Stuart Reid, who played his only Test against Western Samoa more than three years ago, contain just five international players. Only one, Peter Wright, has won more than four caps.

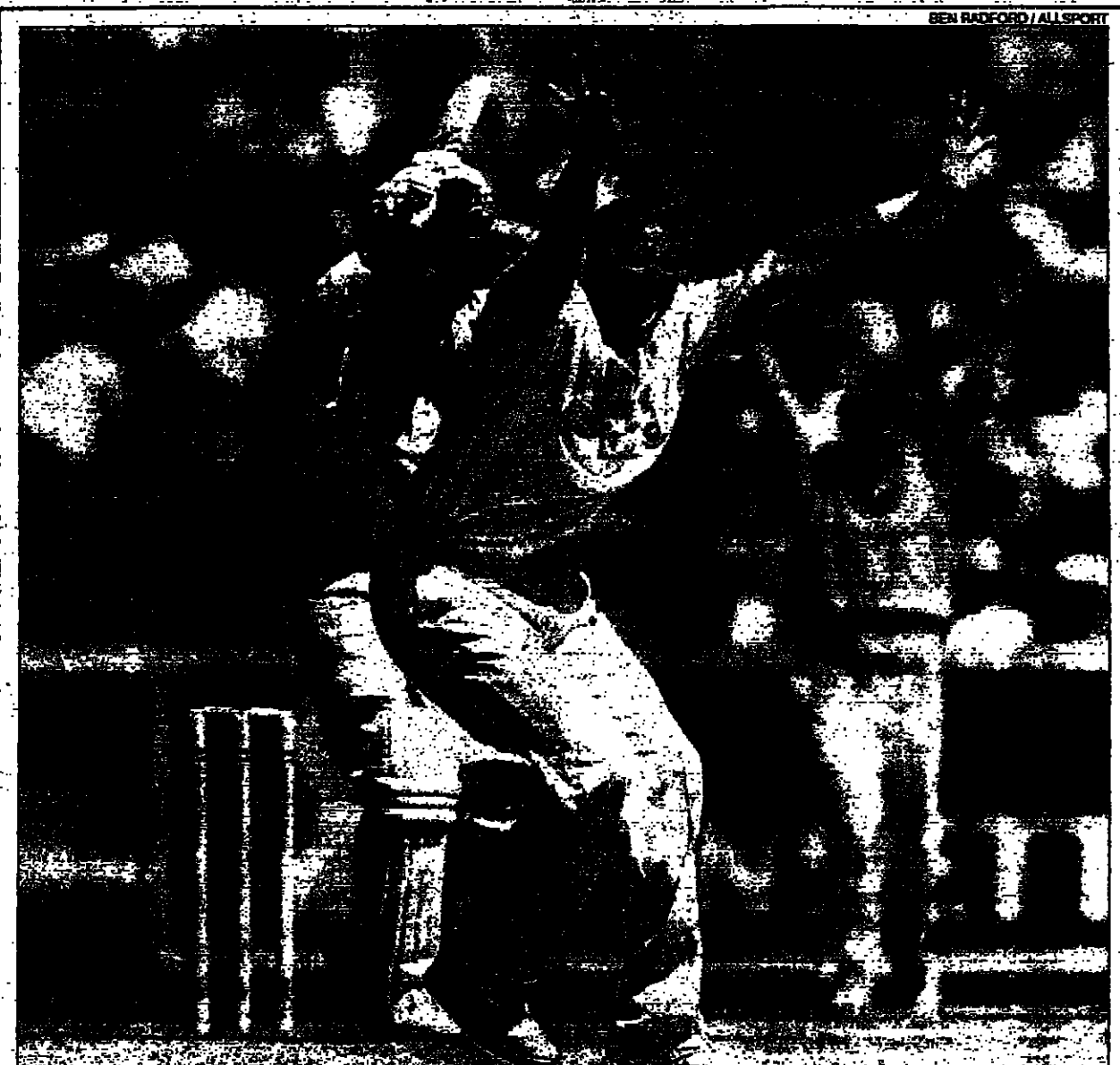
country, although Stuart Grimes and Adam Roxburgh have been capped. Other than Reid and Wright, the only capped player among the Reds forwards is the tight-head prop, Barry Stewart. Doubts widely raised as soon as the decision to hold a trial match was announced at short notice last week have been magnified by the timing of the selection. Sunday sees the two most vital matches in the domestic season take place, when Caledonia Reds meet Glasgow and Edinburgh face the Borders Reivers in the final battle for places in the Heineken Cup next season. The opportunity to earn trial places could have provided an additional incentive. Instead, by naming teams now, it is inevitable that several changes will have to be made with only three days recovery time available after what are certain to be bruising encounters.

One benefit may be to focus the minds of a successful Glasgow squad that has again largely been snubbed. Glasgow only has eight players among the 52 named yesterday — by far the smallest of the four districts and less than half as many representatives as Edinburgh.

SQUADS

BLUES: R Shepherd (Melrose), T Stanger, C Murray (Both Hamilton), G Shield (Melrose), G Blair (Glasgow Hawks), G Chalmers, B Redpath (Melrose), G Mollwain (Glasgow Hawks), G Bulloch (West of Scotland), S Ferguson (Preston), S Gibson (Melrose), G Perrett (West of Scotland), R Wainwright capt (Dunfermline HFP), M Wake (Weston-super-Mare), A Redpath (Kelso), S Stanger, S Hastings, G Burns (Weston-super-Mare), S Longstaff (Dunfermline HFP), S Welsh (Hawick), R McKelvey, D Burns (Boroughmuir), A Parman (Boroughmuir), K McInnes, G Flockhart (Stirling County), C Hogg (Melrose), S Ward (Kelso)

REDS: H Gilmore, C Glasgow (both Harlow's FP), J Meyer (Watlington), P Ross (Dunfermline HFP), J Kerr (Weston-super-Mare), D Hodge (Weston-super-Mare), F Scott (West of Scotland), P Wright (West of Scotland), G Reid capt (Boroughmuir), G Dal (Harlow's FP), Sutherland, A Bulloch, J Shaw (West of Scotland), G McNeill (Glasgow Hawks), J McInnes, M McInnes (Stirling County), Fairley (Kelso), S Paul (Watlington), W Anderson (Glasgow Hawks), J Hay (Kelso), M Blair (Kelso), T McKelvey (Harlow's FP)



Donald winning an appeal in the first Test at Melbourne, where he became his country's leading wicket-taker

Donald faces daunting schedule

DURING the next 13 months, South Africa's cricketers will fulfil one of the most demanding programmes undertaken by any Test team. Tomorrow's game against Australia in Sydney is the first of 17 matches they will play between now and January 19, 1999, the day a potentially epic five-match series with West Indies is due to end in Centurion, near Johannesburg.

For how long, Simon Wilde asks, can South Africa's key man stand the pace

then review his position. By then, he will be 32, which is about the age that fast bowlers usually start to fall off and may have had his fill of international airports and hotels and the unrelenting pressures of Test cricket.

1999 and he is understood to be willing to repay them with two more seasons before joining their coaching staff.

Between times, South Africa will take part in one further Test against Australia in Adelaide later this month, three against Pakistan and two against Sri Lanka — all at home — and five Tests in England next summer. Throw in a couple of dozen one-day matches and they are looking at well over 100 days of international cricket.

If this assault course is not already giving Allan Bacher, South African cricket's guiding light, sleepless nights, it may be only a matter of time. His principal concern, certainly, will be that it does not expedite the retirement of Allan Donald, the country's premier bowler and the ace in their pack.

Donald's future is the subject of much debate — and has been for some time. Fast bowlers are more vulnerable than other types of cricketer — the physical pounding threatens their short-term fitness as well as their longevity — and it will be a minor miracle if Donald, who became his country's leading wicket-taker in Melbourne last Monday, is still upright early next year.

Donald takes his wickets at a faster rate than Shane Warne, and at cheaper cost. In fact, his strike rate of a wicket every 49 balls is superior to every bowler of recent times except Waqar Younis and Malcolm Marshall and his average of 23.27 is remarkably low. Where South Africa would have been without him ought to be clear from the fact that he has taken nearly 100 wickets more than his closest challenger, Fanie de Villiers.

Waugh on threshold of landmark century

STEVE WAUGH will gain membership of an exclusive club tomorrow when he plays his hundredth Test match on his home ground in Sydney. Only two other Australians, David Boon and Allan Border, have played more than 100 Tests.

Waugh, who played his first Test in December, 1985, prepared yesterday for the second Test against South Africa the way he has for the other 99 — batting in the nets, bowling a few balls and doing some fielding practice.

156 Tests in that period, as did Boon (107). Barring injury, Ian Healy, the wicketkeeper, will play his hundredth Test against South Africa at Adelaide at the end of January. Waugh's record of 6,203 runs at 49.23 and 85 wickets at 34.68 is one of the best in post-war Australian cricket. "I've enjoyed every minute of it," he said. "I hope there are a few more to come."

With the Sydney ground expected to produce its traditionally spin-friendly wicket, both sides have added left-arm spinners to their parties. Michael Bevan comes in for Australia and Paul Adams, the bowler with the bizarre action, is being considered by South Africa.

Kenyan bounce gets the better of James

STEVE James epitomised England A's early problems in Kenya yesterday, with all their leading batsmen struggling to adjust to Nairobi's uneven bounce in their opening net session.

The Glamorgan batsman was the first player at the crease as the squad stepped up its preparations and he might have expected to make a confident start, having been the leading first-class run-maker in England last season with 1,775. Yet James

needed a few more sessions to adjust to the low bounce in the nets at the Gynkhana Club stadium.

James, 30, said: "You could have as many indoor net sessions as you like, but they're not like the real thing. To make things worse, the bounce is very low and it's quite different from what we're used to. People talk about Cardiff being outside, low bounce, but this is a lot lower. I don't know if the wickets where we're playing the games will be the same, but if they are, it's something we're just going to have to get used to."

Scrum over here and give us a kiss



Carrick, the lowly Scottish rugby club, is to record thoroughly disciplinary action after coming up with its version of the Glasgow kiss.

Matters came to a head, so to speak, for the Ayrshire club, which plays in the first division of the Glasgow District League, when its match against Birkmyre on December 20 was abandoned after 72 minutes. That in itself was not too unusual, perhaps. However, the incident that brought about the call-off was — one of Carrick's players blew a kiss at an opponent.

The sarcastic gesture proved to be the last straw for Dougie McKenzie, the referee, who, in a bad-tempered affair, had already sent off Mark Robb, a Carrick forward, for throwing a punch.

Yet the referee did not reach the end of his increasingly

Kevin Ferrie on the day that passion became too hot for a referee to handle

short tether until Ivor Glasgow, the aptly-named Carrick flanker, puckered up and tried to cement his relationship with the opposition by sending his message of love to the opposing pack. That was it, decided McKenzie, who blew his whistle for the last time and dispatched everybody for an early bath.

Since McKenzie had effectively sent both teams off, all those involved were automatically suspended until a hearing could take place. The disciplinary panel of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) has suspended all 14 Carrick

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Declarer had enough clues from the bidding to get this hand correct.

Bridge hand diagram showing dealer East, game all, rubber bridge. Includes bidding sequence and card layout.

Contract: Four Hearts doubled, by South. Lead: Two of diamonds.

East's opening bid of Three No-Trumps showed a long solid minor suit with, at most, a queen outside; that is the usual understanding nowadays, although the bid is normally made on a seven-card suit. Notice West's bid of Four Diamonds over the double. Had he passed, East should pass if South's double is passed back to him. It is the old cry — he has described his hand, so he should respect West's decision if that is to play in Three No-Trumps doubled. Here, West could tell that the hearts were well open, with, also, the ace of clubs off the hand, so he wisely removed to Four Diamonds.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams eliminated

After an heroic struggle involving no less than eight consecutive draws, all of them hard fought, Britain's Michael Adams was finally eliminated from the FIDE Championship in Groningen in the sudden death ninth game blitz shootout. Adams, however, can console himself with the thought that this is the closest a British player has come to a world title since Nigel Short challenged Garry Kasparov in 1993. Moreover, Adams' prize fund, well in excess of 300,000 dollars, is second only for a British player to that achieved by Short in his 1993 contest. Here is the decisive game.

White: Viswanathan Anand. Black: Michael Adams. FIDE World Championship Groningen, December 1997.

Chess board diagram showing the final position of the game between Anand and Adams.

WORD-WATCHING

- OOZI a. Aniseed spirit b. A mischievous imp c. An elephant-driver
PROGERIA a. Premature senility b. A flower c. A Punic magistrate
RICOSSO a. Part of a sword b. A rice and fish dish c. A verse form

WINNING

- By Philip Howard
By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Steinitz — Scott, Dundee, 1867. Positions with opposite coloured bishops are notoriously drawish. Here, however, White found a clever combination to change the material balance in his favour. How did he continue? Solution on page 37



# Beleaguered Duffy running out of reasons to be cheerful



Duffy: no win for 14 games

WHEN Jim Duffy accepted the post of Hibernian manager, his new employers flew him to Easter Road by helicopter. A year on, he may wonder whether he will require an unmarked car with its engine running if he is to make a safe exit from a side door at the ground. Supporters have been disgruntled and could soon turn venomous.

This afternoon, Hibernian face Heart of Midlothian at Tynecastle and Duffy's side may run up their fifteenth successive match without a win. The manager is about to come full circle, having taken charge for the first time at the new year derby of 1997, which was lost 4-0. Two subsequent matches with Hearts have also ended in defeat.

Hibernian have more to concern them than saving face in Edinburgh. With the club at the foot of the table, the club must also rescue itself from danger in the Bell's

Scottish League premier division. These are disconcerting weeks for people such as Lex Gold, the chairman, who doubles as spokesman for the proposed breakaway Scottish Premiership.

When he recently suggested that the ten leading clubs could leave in the summer and break off all relations with the other members of the Scottish Football League, Gold left himself open to jibes. There was a meretricious air to the announcement by the chairman of Hibernian that relegation might be dispensed with this season.

Everyone at Easter Road must, for one reason or another, be getting used to derision. The city is an uncomfortable place for them when Hearts are challenging vigorously for the premier division title. Should the Tynecastle side win this afternoon, they will move to the top of the table. In the circumstances, it would be understandable if a

## Kevin McCarra says Edinburgh's derby offers little comfort to a troubled Hibernian manager

Hibernian manager was tetchy and evasive. Such moody behaviour, however, would contradict Duffy's exuberant nature.

He is unusual in that a strong sense of fun is combined with a stubborn streak. The wilfulness was apparent from the beginning of his managerial career, when, in 1989, he gave up his first post, at Falkirk, after a disagreement with the board over the disciplining of eight players who had been involved in a fight at a nightclub.

Despite that stance, there is no puritanism in Duffy's character. His achievement in keeping penurious Dundee in respectable condition owed much to the bonhomie that he fostered at Dens Park. Duffy, himself teetotal, offered the

following account of the assimilation of Dusan Vroto, the Czech defender: "When he came to this club, all he could say in English was 'Yes', 'No' and 'Morning'. A week later he'd added 'Thank you' and 'Budweiser'."

As befits a man born in the Maryhill area of Glasgow, Duffy's wit can also be scathing. While still playing for Partick Thistle, he penned these observations about the club goalkeeper for the match programme: "Andy Murdoch has an answerphone installed on his six-yard line and the message says: 'Sorry I'm not in just now, but if you'd like to leave the ball in the back of the net, I'll get back to you as soon as I can.'"

Duffy is much more than a jester,

but Hibernian did value the vivid personality that he would bring to a club that was drifting into drabness. For a while, some of his vitality transferred itself to the team and they defeated Celtic in the opening match of the season. As late as October, they led Rangers 3-1 in the second half, but they lost that game 4-3.

Since the *elan* ran out, Hibernian's lack of quality has become apparent. Duffy has made 11 signings in a year at Easter Road, but, in several cases, the low price has been an accurate reflection of the player's worth.

The most recent acquisition, Andy Walker, is on a three-month loan from Sheffield United. He, at least, is a forward with a fine record and on his debut he scored twice against Aberdeen in a 2-2 draw. Last Saturday, though, his misses contributed to a 1-0 defeat by Kilmarnock.

In the aftermath, Duffy revealed a little of his exasperation and unhappiness when he invited any discontented members of the squad to tell him if they thought he should resign. It was a bizarre notion. If players had a say, managers throughout the country would find themselves unemployed.

The mere presence of such a line of thought indicated the extreme and distorting circumstances in which Duffy now operates. Many people hope to see him survive and prosper with Hibernian, if only to prove that panache can still be rewarded.

Trevor Francis, of Birmingham City, yesterday became the latest English club manager to express an interest in Ally McCoist of Rangers. Fulham and Sunderland are among other clubs pursuing the Scotland striker, who is expected to leave Ibrox after tomorrow's match against Celtic.

## Neil Harman on the Chelsea striker desperate to repay a national debt

# Zola in the mood for mission to rediscover lost world

WHEN Gianfranco Zola shot a piercing hole in Glenn Hoddle's masterplan at Wembley last February, he knew abolition would be a gradual process. The writers forgave him, when he became Footballer of the Year after 28 scintillating performances; Chelsea forgave, too — a club reborn and the FA Cup back in the trophy room after 27 years.

The full garden of the nation arrived when the night skies of Rome were filled, five months later, with English voices raised in celebration. Hoddle's team had drawn with Italy and beaten them to the World Cup finals, with the Azzurri forced to make up the ground via the hard labour of the play-offs.

tournament is at the winged feet of David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Andy Cole and, even, Dennis Wise. Zola can imagine those four helping to lift Alan Shearer on to their shoulders next July. "These are very, very positive times for football here, not just one player or one club in particular but for every English player," the 31-year-old said. "You can see in the way they are performing, with a belief in them. A team that has such confidence and power can be sustained in a championship to achieve anything it wants."

"It was an incredible recovery by England after we had beaten them at Wembley. I really didn't think they could do that. When a team shows itself to be so strong, you have to say well done and congratulate them."

Thus Zola still has the opportunity to put behind him the personal wretchedness of the 1994 finals in the United States, when, as a bit-part player, he was sent off five minutes after coming on against Nigeria and spent the tournament in deep frustration that Italy could reach the final yet be condemned as negative. His will be every bit as potent a crusade in France next summer as the one that began when he joined Chelsea from Parma in November 1996, two weeks after the death of the club's vice-chairman, Matthew Harding, had sent it into spiritual free-fall. Zola helped to wipe away the tears.

Many in Chelsea blue will find their emotions squeezed again on Sunday when the FA Cup third round pits them against Manchester United, a defining moment so soon in 1998. It is the league of nations club against one predominantly built around home-spun youth, a group of glorious young Englishmen who can, Zola believes, inspire their country to a glorious World Cup summer. The

"I believe that Manchester United, especially, have moved on from last season; they are improving all the time, which means the rest of us have to improve just to try to keep up with them."

In defence, Falister is so strong, they are flying in the midfield, where Scholes and Beckham are so impressive — everyone is better than last year and they focus more than any other team in the Premiership. I marvel at them.

"The target for Chelsea this year is to win the title, but it is going to be hard for us. We didn't play well over Christmas and now to prepare for a cup-tie like this means we have to be extremely focused on one game. The league needs concentration every game and that requires the quality of good footballers and also the qualities of a man."

Zola continues to leave the kind of impression on Chelsea that Eric Cantona had on the youth at United and Jürgen Klinsmann, in his first spell at White Hart Lane, had on the young guns of Tottenham Hotspur — an idol to whom



The wretchedness of his experience in the 1994 World Cup provides an additional spur for Zola to focus on the tournament this summer

they gravitated. "I did not know Cantona, but I see the traces of him still at United," Zola said. "When a quality foreign player comes to a club, it should have an effect on the young English players. They have someone to confront, to compare with and to follow."

"When I was a teenager at home, there were players like Maradona, Platini and Zico in Serie A. They were an example we tried to copy and it made us more productive as footballers. They put a little more competition into the system, and that's good for the level of quality in the game."

"I know I have helped at Chelsea. When I first saw Dennis Wise, he was a good player, but now he has reached a new level, his intelligence has increased and, in my opinion, he is one of the best midfield players I have seen in the last year. He should be in the England squad."

Zola regards his spell in England as a mighty adventure — though he cannot be sure how it will end. "I'm a positive man, I know I could do a good job and I have to say that I have found the perfect atmosphere to develop my football. I'm surrounded by good players, it is hard to imagine a better group of supporters who have been with me from the first game. This has helped me to settle down to play my best football."

Zola senses that his affinity with English football can be traced to his island roots. A proud Sardinian, he has had to fight all the way, overcoming his physical frailties to become one of his country's finest performers. He was not big and he was not strong, so he worked on improving those elements of his game that would hold him back.

"I wasn't good at heading the ball, so I improved my skills to get faster and stronger in the legs. When you work hard for something and earn your reward, it is a great satisfaction. Every time I have had a bad moment — and that's normal when you are fighting obstacles in your life — I look back on what I have done in the past and that gives me more power, strength and satisfaction."

"I have set my heart on playing for Italy next summer; what happened the last time hurt me deeply. Only this summer can I fully recover from it."

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, has rejected a £5 million offer from Sheffield Wednesday for Gary Speed, his unsettled captain. "We have no intention of allowing him to leave at present," Kendall said.

Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, has acknowledged for the first time the possibility of losing Steve Staunton under the Bosman ruling at the end of the season. The defender's contract expires during the summer and he has rejected two offers from Villa.

Dennis Irwin emerged unscathed from a full 90 minutes for Manchester United reserves against Leeds United on Tuesday night and is now in line for a return to first team action against Chelsea in the FA Cup on Sunday. Colin Hendry, the Scotland international, yesterday returned to training with Blackburn Rovers after an injury.

## Emerson to be sold after going missing

By DAVID MADDOCK

MIDDLESBROUGH have placed Emerson, the midfielder player, on the transfer list. The Teesside club made the news official yesterday, after the Brazilian once again failed to return from a Christmas break in his homeland.

Emerson disappeared after failing to catch a flight back to England last Friday, but rang Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, over the weekend to say that he would never play for the club again.

The latest episode is the fourth occasion on which Emerson has remained in Rio de Janeiro without permission from the club that pays him wages of £12,000 a week.

Keith Lamb, the Middlesbrough chief executive, said: "If we can get the money back that we paid for him, then he can go — we've made that clear."

Emerson first went missing a year ago, when it was reported that there was interest from Barcelona and his latest departure coincides, surprisingly enough, with the suggestion of a bid from Tenerife, also of Spain. However, Lamb said: "His present actions won't have endeared him to any club."

Alan Shearer confirmed yesterday the news that Glenn Hoddle is desperate to hear, that the forward could return to action — ahead of schedule — by the end of January. Shearer was amused to read reports suggesting that he could even be on the bench for Newcastle United's FA Cup tie against Everton on Sunday, but he did agree with a report in *The Times* yesterday that the fourth round of the competition is a more realistic target.

"I have just returned to training and I would think that I need another four or five weeks before I am ready, and then I will have to prove my fitness to the manager," he said.

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Fairclough, left, is looking to Smith to keep the Swindon forwards at bay at the County Ground

STEVENAGE Borough take the field at Broadhall Way this afternoon against Rushden and Diamonds in a Vauxhall Conference match to complete preparations for their FA Cup third-round tie at Swindon Town on Saturday. It could happen only in the English game.

The last time Paul Fairclough, the manager, was able to get his side on the training pitch was the Tuesday before Christmas. "All we could do was a lot of running to get the best out of the players from the Christmas party the previous night."

Stevenage asked Rushden if they would postpone the match to give his side breathing space, but Brian Talbot, the Rushden head coach, turned the request down.

The only consolation is that playing Rushden will probably bring Stevenage more cash than the trip to the County Ground. "There's no money from television," Fairclough said. "The money is split with Swindon and the FA. The tickets we've got are priced at £10 and £5. Take

# Fairclough tries to keep the stars out of Stevenage's eyes

away the costs, the stewards and the rest and, from a crowd of 11,000 or so, it won't be a huge amount."

It is, he feels, a poor reward. Fairclough has a radical solution. "For getting this far, non-League clubs should be drawn only against Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United and Chelsea," he said. "Post-Bosman, it is the only way to get money circulating through to the lower clubs."

His feelings are coloured by the way that the Cup cost Stevenage dear last year and, more pertinently, has interfered with the need to collect Conference points this season. Having gained only five out of a possible 33, Stevenage hang perilously above the relegation positions.

And yet Fairclough acknowledges that "the FA Cup

## Walter Gammie on a club determined not to make an expensive Cup mistake again

creates the most amazing amount of glamour." It is a high point in the playing lives of his part-time charges.

Take Mark Smith, 30, a supervisor at a foundry. He is a Liverpool supporter who admits to "a buzz" just thinking of setting foot in the domain of Steve McMahon and Mark Walters.

Smith, the footballer, has the unstinting admiration of his manager. "He's the best player in the league," Fairclough said. "He can play anywhere. He played up front and scored against Car-

shalton. He's often played in midfield, but his best position is at the back."

"I am a manager's dream."

Smith said cheerfully — before owing up to a spot of bother with timekeeping. "I missed the coach to Welling," he said. "The manager was not happy. I've kept them waiting a few times."

Smith was presented with an alarm clock at the club's Christmas party. Fairclough received a giant notebook signed by his players and marked for "Cloughie's Copious Notes" in honour of his



FA CUP

joined Bristol Rovers and Sodge went to Macclesfield Town.

"The other thing that cost us the league was the FA Cup," Fairclough said. His side were bogged down in the qualifying rounds, then broke new ground by reaching the third round before bowing out at Birmingham City.

The regret lingers. "If we hadn't lost the court case, we'd be in the League, Barry Hayles would be here and we'd be sitting on £1.5 million," Fairclough said.

Paul Thompson, bought from Gateshead as a replacement, was injured after scoring twice in a pre-season match and has not played since. A succession of forwards have come and gone since and the injuries have been up. Yet amid the gloom, the Cup has at least kept up the profile of the club.

Smith, meanwhile, promises not to be starstruck. "I want to do better on Saturday than I did at Birmingham," he said. "I want to stamp my authority from the start." If he is not too exhausted to move, that is.



# Unsung sports struggling to stay in tune with cash chorus

## World class, or underclass? David Powell charts the global conquests of Britain's major minorities

When the BBC put on its Sports Review of 1997, it was not so much a celebration of British sport as a reminder of how unsuccessful we are. Where were Britain's world champions? Sitting at home watching on television, that's where.

Athletes and Formula One drivers are the most common winners of the annual poll, but, without a world-beater between them this year, the prize went to Greg Rusedski, a tennis player. Best achievements runner-up in the men's singles at the US Open.

David Kemp sat through the programme accepting his fate as a British sportsman who, no matter how many world titles he wins, is never likely to be invited on to the show. "There are a lot of novel sports and to have gone through the list would have taken two hours," Kemp said.

The BBC made mention of a few novel sports — unsung sports might be a better term — but allocated little more time than it would have taken for Peter O'Sullivan to correct his mispronunciation of Rusedski's name. Kemp is one of many world champions that most of Britain does not know it has.

From field archery to hovering, model flying to sand yachting, quots to artistic roller skating, Britain packs in the gold medals. Unloved by television and newspapers they may be, but many of these sports have been receiving Government funding for years.

Model flying, for example, was awarded £15,000 in 1996-97, sand and land yachting £19,000. Athletics received £625,000 and did not produce a world champion. Model flying gave us Mick Reeves, the radio-controlled scale world champion, and the world team title. British land yachting boasts Chris Wright, world champion.

More than 100 sports have received funding, but now the "quirky" ones, as one United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC) insider described them, are to be examined

more closely before money is allocated. So too are the less quirky, but nevertheless lightweight, British sports, such as surfing — more of that in a moment. First, the unmasking of some of Britain's unknown world champions.

In field archery, which expects 36 countries at its next world championships, there is Steve Partridge (recurve barebow), Susan Davis (unlimited), Bradley Marshall (compound barebow), Joan Green (recurve freestyle). Far greater success than Britain has in target archery.

"Target archery is what you see at the Olympic Games, where you shoot from one end to the other," Stephen Kendrick, the English Field Archery Association president, said. "Field archery is skin to, say, golf. You have 28 targets, each at a different distance, each on undulating terrain — uphill, downhill, over water. In golf, you go one through to 18; in field archery, one through to 28."

Of the four hovering world titles, Britons hold three. Kemp in Formula S (single

unlimited engine, single fan); Robin Bricks in Formula 2 (500cc); Rupert Baker in Formula 3 (250cc).

Hovering is held over land and water, following the principle of the hovercraft, even if the vessels bear little resemblance and are closer to the size of a rowing boat. The mainly fibreglass craft hover on a cushion of air and the skill is as much in setting up the weight-to-engine power as in the driving.

Kemp, 27, a design engineer, is passionate about the sport, as was his father, now retired after 22 years of racing. "One of the main things with hovercraft is making them light," Kemp said, "but, if they are light, they tend to be less robust and things break and fall off. There is nothing made for hovercraft. Anything you want, you have to make yourself."

Another cheap sport is sand and land yachting — sailing on wheels — in which some 30 countries compete. "That is why a lot of people do it," Mike Hampton, secretary of the British Federation of Sand and Land Yacht Clubs, said.

Water yachting is more expensive. The class of yacht Chris (Wright) sails — the complete yacht ready to go and win a world championship — costs only around £1,500. For a crude (water) dinghy, you are talking £3,000 plus, or more for anything that has got any sort of performance.

Wright, a former dinghy sailor, now concentrates solely on land yachting. "Chris sails in class five, the most popular class but not the fastest," Hampton added. "His yacht will do up to 70mph."

Sand and land yachting will need to continue to deliver winners if funding is to be maintained, now that the World Class Performance plan, financed by the National Lottery, is concentrating on elite sport. It appears that the unsung sports will have to meet standards of achievement or face cuts.

Some £2.6 million has gone into athletics, for example, while surfing has lost its £28,000 grant. Britain has little record of success in surfing, so the warning is

there for the likes of sand and land yachting: keep winning or the money may not be there. "It might be different if we were world champions," Colin Wilson, the British Surfing Association administrator, said.

The UKSC is looking more now at a policy funding outstanding competitors rather than whole sports. "It may well be that funding goes directly to individuals rather than supporting some large bureaucracy," Roger Eady, the UKSC's performance development director, said.

Matthew Crawford, a UKSC spokesman, added: "There will be some harsh decisions. In the past, the Sports Councils have funded the administration of governing bodies. Now we might say that, where that sport does not demonstrate success, or large-scale potential for success, we may wish to target one or two individuals for funding."

"We have been told to focus on elite sport and are going to have to look increasingly at where the money goes to get a better return on the public's investment. In the pre-lottery days, the governing bodies of sport put in plans for Government exchequer funding. The lottery has brought a more rigorous system for the allocation of funds."

However, the low-profile sports argue that numbers participating should count for something. Wilson noted that more than 10,000 people in Britain surf competitively the year-round. "How many people do you know go bobsleighbing?" Wilson said. British bobsleigh has been allocated £299,000 under the World Class Performance programme.

The Government announced this month that the £68 million UK Sports Institute would be centred in Sheffield, providing a base for eight key sports. Never mind those swimming, judo, volleyball, badminton and so on. How about land yachting and hovering? Then we'll show you.



Kemp: hovering at the top



Reeves: model champion



Partridge: Partridge is one of Britain's four field archery world champions

## WORLD SPORTS RANKINGS 1997

### WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY TEST MATCH CHAMPIONSHIP

Rank	Country	Pts	Diff
1	Australia	14	+8
2	South Africa	13	+7
3	West Indies	13	+4
4	India	14	+1
5	Pakistan	13	+1
6	Sri Lanka	13	-2
7	England	14	-3
8	Zimbabwe	14	-3
9	New Zealand	14	-7

### COOPERS AND LYBRAND RATINGS

Rank	Country	Points
1	England	832
2	South Africa	827
3	West Indies	778
4	India	721
5	Pakistan	721
6	Sri Lanka	721
7	New Zealand	704
8	Zimbabwe	698
9	Australia	687
10	Australia	687
11	England	678
12	South Africa	678
13	West Indies	678
14	India	678
15	Pakistan	678
16	Sri Lanka	678
17	New Zealand	678
18	Zimbabwe	678
19	Australia	678
20	Australia	678

### THE TIMES WORLD TABLE

Rank	Country	Pts	Diff
1	New Zealand	27	110
2	South Africa	27	110
3	France	28	18
4	Australia	28	18
5	England	19	10
6	Wales	10	2
7	Argentina	11	0
8	Scotland	15	5
9	Ireland	15	5
10	Italy	15	5

### WORLD CHAMPIONS

Country	WBC	WBA	IBF	WBO
Heavy	L. Lewis (GB)	E. Holyfield (US)	H. Hide (GB)	H. Hide (GB)
Light-heavy	R. Jones (US)	L. Del Valle (US)	W. Guthrie (US)	D. Mitchell (GB)
Super-middle	T. Maybank (GB)	J. Diaz (US)	C. Brewer (US)	D. Mitchell (GB)
Middle	K. Holmes (US)	J. Goss (GB)	B. Hopkins (US)	O. Grant (US)
Light-middle	K. Manning (US)	L. Boudouani (FR)	J. Campas (US)	R. Winters (US)
Light	O. De La Hoya (US)	Q. Charby (GB)	F. Trinidad (PR)	M. Linares (GB)
Light-welter	R. Ranique (FR)	V. Phillips (US)	G. Fata (FR)	G. Fata (FR)
Welter	S. Johnson (US)	O. Nisenzov (US)	S. Mouton (US)	A. Gargano (Lat)
Super-welter	G. Hernandez (US)	V. Soa Chai (Kor)	A. Gatti (US)	B. Jones (GB)
Light-heavy	I. Espinoza (PR)	W. Vasquez (PR)	R. Hernandez (US)	N. Hamed (GB)
Heavy	E. Morales (Mex)	A. Camero (Mex)	V. Burgos (SA)	K. McKinnay (US)
Super-heavy	S. M. Khan (GB)	N. Kozlov (Ukr)	T. Austin (US)	R. Hagan (GB)
Super-heavy	G. Benavente (PR)	V. S. Ch. (Tha)	J. Tapa (US)	J. Tapa (US)
Super-heavy	C. S. S. (Tha)	J. S. S. (Tha)	M. Johnson (US)	C. S. S. (Tha)
Super-heavy	M. P. S. (Tha)	P. S. (Tha)	vacant	M. Castro (Mex)
Super-heavy	R. Lopez (Mex)	R. Alvarez (Mex)	Z. L. Lopez (SA)	vacant

### FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

Rank	Country	Points
1	Brazil	73.45
2	Germany	65.41
3	Sweden	64.82
4	England	61.26
5	Mexico	60.90
6	France	60.38
7	Romania	60.35
8	Denmark	59.95
9	Spain	59.81
10	Colombia	59.44
11	Spain	59.32
12	Russia	58.35
13	Norway	58.29
14	Japan	57.87
15	Morocco	57.87
16	Chile	57.75
17	Argentina	57.74
18	Sweden	57.47
19	Chile	57.47
20	Venezuela	57.47
21	Zambia	56.73
22	Japan	56.58
23	Turkey	56.58
24	Bolivia	54.82
25	Australia	54.82
26	United States	54.42
27	South Korea	54.32
28	Denmark	54.32
29	Paraguay	53.97
30	Denmark	53.11
31	South Africa	53.08
32	Spain	53.04
33	Australia	52.84
34	Sweden	52.82
35	Australia	52.82
36	Bulgaria	52.36
37	Scotland	52.27
38	Ukraine	51.70
39	Jamaica	51.81
40	Ukraine	50.79
41	Ukraine	49.52
42	Turkey	49.30
43	Turkey	48.47
44	Lithuania	47.07
45	Poland	46.15

### MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS

Rank	Country	Points
1	G. Norman (Aus)	11.49
2	T. Woods (US)	10.76
3	N. P. (GB)	10.76
4	E. S. (SA)	10.76
5	D. L. (US)	10.76
6	N. M. (GB)	10.76
7	C. M. (GB)	9.38
8	J. M. (GB)	9.38
9	J. M. (GB)	9.38
10	M. O. (US)	7.98
11	M. O. (US)	7.98
12	D. D. (US)	6.57
13	H. H. (US)	6.57
14	F. F. (US)	6.57
15	V. S. (FR)	6.54
16	V. S. (FR)	6.54
17	P. P. (US)	6.54
18	P. P. (US)	6.54
19	P. P. (US)	6.54
20	P. P. (US)	6.54

### WOMEN'S PING LEADERBOARD

Rank	Country	Points
1	S. Sorenstam (Swe)	476.50
2	W. J. (US)	459.39
3	R. (US)	439.39
4	R. (US)	439.39
5	J. (US)	424.00
6	J. (US)	424.00
7	M. (US)	417.48
8	H. (US)	417.48
9	P. (US)	417.48
10	I. (US)	417.48

### DINGHY - LASER

Rank	Country	Points
1	R. Schall (GB)	3,391
2	B. (GB)	3,312
3	S. (GB)	3,257
4	M. (GB)	3,257
5	S. (GB)	3,155

### WOMEN'S SAIBOARD

Rank	Country	Points
1	M. (GB)	3,476
2	A. (GB)	3,380
3	J. (GB)	3,314
4	J. (GB)	3,282

### MEN'S ATP TOUR

Rank	Country	Points
1	P. (US)	4,547
2	P. (US)	3,910
3	A. (GB)	3,158
4	B. (Swe)	2,949
5	K. (Swe)	2,880
6	G. (Swe)	2,817
7	C. (Swe)	2,505
8	S. (Swe)	2,367
9	M. (Swe)	2,283
10	M. (Swe)	2,217
11	R. (Swe)	2,217
12	A. (Swe)	2,217
13	K. (Swe)	2,217
14	M. (Swe)	2,217
15	M. (Swe)	2,217
16	M. (Swe)	2,217
17	M. (Swe)	2,217
18	M. (Swe)	2,217
19	M. (Swe)	2,217
20	M. (Swe)	2,217

## Clubs are forced to wear salary cap

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER the flat cap, 1998 is the year of the salary cap. From today, the free market, which has existed since the birth of the sport in 1895, is replaced by strict limits on players' wages in order to save clubs from spending themselves into oblivion.

The cap applies to how much a club can spend overall on payments to players, based on 50 per cent of estimated gross income for the 1998 season. Provided that it works, it will act as a tourniquet and prevent the blood loss that last year, accounted for Oldham Bears, Paris Saint-Germain, Preston Panthers, Chelsea and most alarmingly, left Wigan Warriors a few days away from closure before a boardroom takeover.

Two years into the five-year, £87 million Super League deal with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, a generation of players has grown wealthy as a result of full-time professionalism, while the game overall has become even more impoverished. It is a mishandling of funds on a grand scale that is only now being addressed as clubs are forced to prune

squads and pare wage packets. Leading players, among them Andy Farrell, Jason Robinson and the re-signed Denis Betts, at Wigan, can still command salaries from £100,000 to £200,000, but, rather like fantasy football, there is a ceiling up to which clubs can spend and payments to other players must fit within that limit.

By restricting spending on players to half their income, it is hoped that financial stability, a first priority, and long-promised ground improvements can be achieved. Nigel Wood, the chief executive of Halifax Blue Sox and a member of the salary cap working group, said: "The game was bleeding to death and a way had to be found to stem that loss."

Getting the salary cap figures right is now as important for clubs as balancing the books. The pity is that the game has allowed itself to get into a worse position than when the salary cap was first due to be introduced in 1995 and was then quietly shelved at the time of the Super League revolution.

### BOULDER ROLLING

Rank	Country	Points
1	L. (GB)	2,353
2	L. (GB)	1,610
3	M. (GB)	1,417
4	A. (GB)	1,417
5	A. (GB)	1,417
6	A. (GB)	1,417
7	A. (GB)	1,417
8	A. (GB)	1,417
9	A. (GB)	1,417
10	A. (GB)	1,417



Izamman: leading test batsman

### O'NEILL WORLD RANKINGS

Rank	Country	Points
1	S. Sorenstam (Swe)	3,362
2	S. Sorenstam (Swe)	3,362
3	S. Sorenstam (Swe)	3,362
4	S. Sorenstam (Swe)	3,362
5	S. Sorenstam (Swe)	3,362

### MULTI-RACE TORNADO

Rank	Country	Points
1	L. (GB)	3,330
2	L. (GB)	3,330
3	L. (GB)	3,330
4	L. (GB)	3,330



Sorenstam: leading women's golfer

### WIA TOUR

Rank	Country	Points
1	M. (GB)	3,077
2	M. (GB)	3,077
3	M. (GB)	3,077
4	M. (GB)	3,077
5	M. (GB)	3,077

### WOMEN

Rank	Country	Points
1	J. (GB)	3,317
2	J. (GB)	3,317
3	J. (GB)	3,317
4	J. (GB)	3,317
5	J. (GB)	3,317

### FOOTBALL

Rank	Country	Points
1	M. (GB)	3,077
2	M. (GB)	3,077
3	M. (GB)	3,077
4	M. (GB)	3,077
5	M. (GB)	3,077

RUGBY LEAGUE



# Numbers that can stand up and be counted in the business of sport

- 18 Tiger Woods's total under par at the US Masters at Augusta.
- 0 The end-of-season points total of Michael Schumacher.
- 0 The amount that Michael Schumacher was fined for his potentially lethal assault on Jacques Villeneuve.
- 0 The number of one-day matches in which England cricketers remained undefeated against Zimbabwe.
- 0 The number of games played this season by the country's most expensive footballer, Alan Shearer.
- 0 The number of credible opponents to Manchester United to have emerged in the FA Carling Premiership thus far this season.
- 0 The number of goals scored in the World Cup qualifying match between Italy and England in Rome.
- 0 The number of gold medals won by Great Britain at the world athletics championships.
- 2 The majority that will be required in February 1998 when the members of MCC vote on the admission of women to the club.
- 1 The number of podium finishes achieved by Damon Hill.
- 1 Mach number exceeded by the new land-speed record.
- 1 1/2 The number of points scored by Tiger Woods at the Ryder Cup.
- 2 The number of days that Zimbabwe had to wait for their second victory over England.
- 2 The number of Test-match centuries scored in a single match by Steve Waugh, of Australia, against England.
- 2 The number of ears bitten by Mike Tyson in his fight with Evander Holyfield.
- 2 The number for Kent's cricketers, who specialised in being runners-up last season.
- 3 The number of medals won in the steeplechase by Kenya at the world athletics championships.
- 3 The points for Jeremy Goscutt's winning dropped goal for the British Isles in the second international against South Africa.
- 3 The number of times Dean Windass was sent off in a single match for Aberdeen. After being sent off for a second bookable offence, his protests to the referee earned him a second red card. On leaving the pitch, he tore the corner flag out and threw it to the ground, earning himself more disciplinary points, equivalent to a third dismissal.



- 78 The number of points scored by Michael Schumacher, subsequently removed after his attempt to drive Jacques Villeneuve off the track.
- 97 The number of consecutive service games won by Pete Sampras at Wimbledon.
- 101.11 The number of seconds it took Wilson Kipketer to run 800 metres and beat the record of Sebastian Coe, which had stood for 16 years.
- 121 The number of years Middleborough fans had been waiting for an FA Cup Final appearance; see 43.
- 133 The number of balls faced by Danny Morrison for New Zealand against England, as he scored 14 not out in an unbroken last-wicket partnership that saved the match.
- 143 The present record in miles per hour, for the fastest serve on record, held by Greg Rusedski.
- 179 The number of goals Ian Wright scored to pass the Arsenal record of Cliff Bastin.
- 202 Number of winners ridden by Kieren Fallon in the last Flat racing season.
- 203 The number of runs scored by Ally Brown for Surrey in the Sunday league against Hampshire, the first double-century in this form of cricket.
- 229 The number of runs scored by Belinda Clark for Australia against Denmark, the highest individual score in a one-day representative match.
- 328 The number of seconds it took Ronnie O'Sullivan to compile a 147 maximum break in the world snooker championship.
- 464 The number of minutes played by Manchester United before they conceded a goal in the present Premiership season.
- 516 The record number of balls bowled in a county championship match, set this year by Peter Such for Essex, against Lancashire.
- 576 The record Test match stand for any wicket, achieved by Roshan Mahanama and Sanath Jayasuriya for Sri Lanka against India.
- 952 The total scored by Sri Lanka against India, the highest Test match innings total ever.
- 18,368 The number of horse races successfully started by the recently retired Captain Keith Brown.
- 165,000 The amount in pounds earned by Ronnie O'Sullivan for his maximum snooker break.
- 2,000,000 The amount of pounds wiped off the Stock Market valuation of Newcastle United after Alan Shearer's injury.
- 2,066,833 The amount in dollars won by Tiger Woods in his first season as a pro.
- 16,700,000 The amount of profit made by Manchester United in 1997, which made them the most successful financial performers in Europe.
- 31,400,000 The amount in pounds of the annual wage bill of AC Milan.
- 60,245,000 The amount in pounds spent on players in four years by Kevin Keegan when at Newcastle United.

Numbers hold everlasting significance in sport, bearing the aroma of greatness and the weight of defeat. **Simon Barnes** once more invited suggestions for the magic numbers of all time and of 1997, covering the rise of Woods and Rusedski, the demise of Schumacher and Tyson, and the enduring fortunes of Steve Redgrave and misfortunes of England's cricketers

- 4 The number of years that it took the baseball team, Florida Marlins, from their foundation, to win the World Series.
- 4 The number of revolutions performed in the air by the Canadian skater, Elvis Stojko, who won the world championship, successfully landing a quad jump as he did so.
- 4 The number of grand-slam finals reached by Martina Hingis in 1997.
- 6 The number of world championships won by the pole-vaulter, Sergei Bubka.
- 6 The number of successful penalty shoot-outs won by Harrow Borough Football Club, which is claimed as a world record. The nearest rival, they say, is Germany, with four.
- 7 The number of rowing world championships won by Steve Redgrave.
- 7 The number of wickets taken by an individual in the final Test match of the Ashes summer — achieved, for the first time, by three bowlers, Glenn McGrath, Michael Kasprovicz and Phil Tufnell.
- 8 The number, in yards, between Alan Shearer and the nearest player when he injured his ankle.
- 8 The number of wickets taken by Robert Croft in five Tests last summer.
- 10 The number of English managers in the Premiership.
- 11 The number of wickets taken by Phil Tufnell in one Test last summer.
- 12 The winning margin of Tiger Woods at the US Masters.
- 12 The number of non-Englishmen in the 1997 FA Cup Final.
- 12 The age in years of Katie Parker, the youngest athlete to represent England in a world championship. She is a table tennis player.
- 14 The age at which Tara Lipinski became the "women's" ice skating world champion.
- 14 1/2 The number of points scored by Europe in the Ryder Cup; the United States scored 13 1/2.
- 16 More history: The number of goals scored by Stephen Stanis for Racing Club de Lens against Aubry-Asturies in the French Cup in 1942, considered to be the highest individual tally in a first-class football match.
- 17 Dizzy height reached in the cricket county championship by Durham, just when they seem to have made the magic number of 18 (bottom) their own for ever.
- 19 The age of Ben Hollis on his debut as an England Test-match cricketer.
- 20 One more bit of history: the number of seconds that Ambrose Brown stayed on the pitch before being sent off as Wrexham played Hull City in a third division (north) match in 1936. The match was played on Christmas Day.



- 21 Age of Tiger Woods as he became the youngest-ever winner of the US Masters.
- 23 The record number of Ryder Cup wins; achieved by Nick Faldo, beating Arnold Palmer's record.
- 24 Record number of Test-match ducks, achieved by Danny Morrison, of New Zealand. But see 133.
- 24 The number reached by the Nicolas Feuillatte Shane Warne Fizzometer last summer, representing the number of Test-match wickets taken by Warne against England.
- 26 The number of points scored by both England and New Zealand in the recent rugby union international.
- 31 The number of runs (all out) scored by Glamorgan against Middlesex in July this year, on their way to an eventual championship.
- 32 The unprecedented number of nations that went into the draw for the World Cup finals.
- 33 Best late entry: the number on the shirt of the saviour of Tottenham Hotspur.
- 35 The number of days it took Rangers to be knocked out of two European competitions this season. They lost to IFK Gothenburg in the qualifying round for the Champions' League of the European Cup and to Strabozing in the first round of the Uefa Cup.
- 35 The combined age of the women finalists at the French Open this year: Martina Hingis, 16, and Iva Majoli, 19.
- 38 The number of points played in the tie-break in the semi-final of the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club between Greg Rusedski and Goran Ivanisevic.
- 41 The number of points scored by Neil Jenkins as he set a record for individual points-scoring during the British Isles rugby union series against South Africa.
- 41 The number of Wimbledon singles titles won by Rod Laver, John Newcombe, John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Pete Sampras, Louise Brough, Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova — former champions gathered for the opening of the new No 1 Court at Wimbledon this year.
- 41 The rise (from No 47) in the rankings by Greg Rusedski over the course of 1997.
- 41 The number of days (plus 1hr 53min) that it took Phil Stubbs and Rob Hamill to win the Atlantic rowing race from Tenerife to Barbados.
- 43 The number of seconds that it took Roberto di Matteo to score the opening goal in the 1997 FA Cup Final.
- 45 The consecutive number of grand-slam matches won by Steffi Graf before she was beaten by Amanda Coetzer in the Australian Open last year.

**WINNERS**

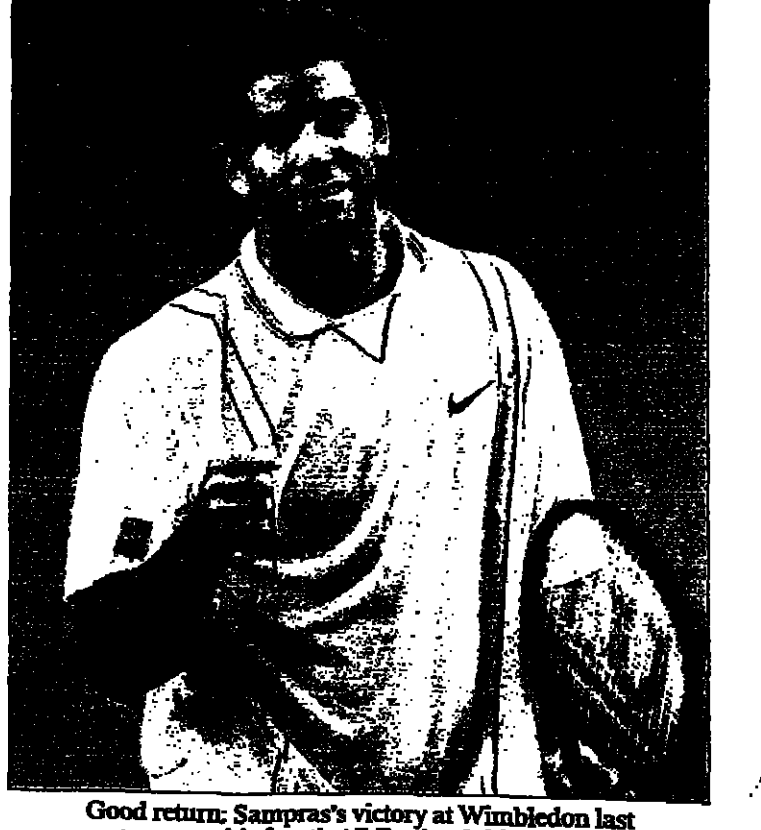
THANKS to everyone who contributed to this great collection of Magic Numbers. Those that contributed the best numbers will be rewarded with a spot of bubbled bliss: a bottle of Nicolas Feuillatte champagne. I, as the Numbers Master, have been sole judge of the relevance and excellence of these.

As usual, there were many duplications — a lot of people offered 26 and 52 for the recent rugby union match, for example. In these cases, the winner has been drawn from a hat. Congratulations to the winners, commiserations to the losers, greetings to everyone with sporting blood in the veins. I wish you all rich and sporting celebrations of the next magic number of 1998.

WINNERS: M. Chapman, R. Gardner, R. Dyer, G. Smith, M. Burrows, M. O'Leary, T. Healy, K. Tracy, D. Reay, J. Sabey, I. Patten, J. Broadland, A. Brooker, T. Bourn, G. Carrillo, M. Williams, R. Scuderi, B. Trewhitt, J. Egan, M. Bunterworth, P. Mapp, S. Gupta, N. Smith, N. Gough, E. Wetherill, S. Corroli, J. Laidl.



Youthful prowess: Lipinski, at 14, became the "women's" ice skating world champion



Good return: Sampras's victory at Wimbledon last year was his fourth All England title. See 41

...bs are fore  
...car salary















# Nasty bugs but nastier people

**NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown cheers on the baddies in a dark sci-fi extravaganza, *Starship Troopers***

Seeing Earth face a ferocious attack from enormous alien insects may not be everyone's way of starting the new year. But *Starship Troopers* is a film hard to ignore. It thunders along at a tremendous pace, boasts incredible special effects and considerable violence of a comic-strip kind. The human beings riddle their prey with bullets and explode colossal insects with carefully lobbed grenades. The bugs, for their part, chew off heads, spear bodies with razor-sharp limbs and suck out human brains. Welcome to moviegoing in 1998.

Luckily, Paul Verhoeven's film is not all science-fiction gore. It has cheek. It has attitude. It parades a bizarre, unknown cast, young and beautiful, plucked mostly from American TV series. And it plays about with the fascist politics that thread through its source, Robert A. Heinlein's famous novel.

The insects may be the obvious enemy, killing machines that hurl lethal asteroids from their home planet, Klendathu, a desert wasteland. But mankind is no peach, either. Society has evolved into a fascist state. Dissenters from the world federal government line are executed on prime-time television. Even the uniforms of the young, gung-ho fighters, the film's main characters, have a touch of the Nazi about them. In this war movie you don't feel happy cheering either side.

We are also kept on our toes by the crazy mix of genres. Yes, *Starship Troopers* is science fiction. But it is also a war movie, of the kind inspired by the Second World War, where a group of friends would be thrown into action and meet differing fortunes under fire. Boot camp horrors; the enemy's sneak attack; a retaliatory invasion, setback and retreat; then a daring assault: we go through the lot with the full military complement of generals, lieutenants, pilots and foot soldiers.

There is also teen romance

to enjoy. Will Johnny's love for Carmen help him to sustain the rigours of army training? And how will Dizzy's unrequited passion for Johnny survive? Verhoeven's cast, headed by Casper Van Dien, Denise Richards, Dina Meyer and Jake Busey, may not offer star allure, but their youthfulness cements the film's jaunty, adolescent appeal. The naive optimism of these characters — Richard's pilot is radiantly vacuous, always smiling — is further reflected in the snip-pets we see of government propaganda broadcasts, styled like public service films from the 1940s and 1950s. Spoofery is never far away in Ed Neumeier's script.

Nor are the bugs. Sometimes they supply gruesome comedy, as when one is dissected for teaching purposes, and impossible organs covered with glop are yanked out of the carcass. But once the film is on a war footing, Verhoeven's crack special effects team, led by Phil Tippett (from *Jurassic Park*), concentrates on making them big, very nasty and virtually indestructible, as they mass for action. Time and again they get zapped by bullets; time and again, they survive to crush roars humans, spew out green or orange goo, or suck out the odd brain.

Returning to sci-fi after the ludicrous "bump and grind" of *Showgirls*, Verhoeven proves his status as one of Hollywood's most wicked entertainers. He bombards us with action, but also plays subversive games, never letting the adrenalin swamp dark thoughts about humanity. This is popcorn cinema with a dangerous edge.

So, in a different way, is *Written on the Wind*, one of those hectic but well-managed melodramas that became a speciality of the Danish-born director Douglas Sirk during the 1950s in Hollywood. The current film, from 1956, starts off in high delirium: a reckless drunk driver in a bright-yellow convertible;



Look out behind you: an Earth soldier gets his comeuppance from a hairy-legged flesh-eating invader in Paul Verhoeven's astonishing blockbuster, *Starship Troopers*

**Starship Troopers**  
Odeon West End  
15, 120 mins  
Brazen blockbuster with astonishing effects  
**Written on the Wind**  
Curzon Phoenix  
PG, 99 mins  
Kitsch classic from the 1950s  
**The Wings of the Dove**  
Curzon Mayfair  
15, 102 mins  
Low-flying adaptation of Henry James

Rock Hudson, who rather wanted her for himself. "It's about time you got hitched, isn't it?" Stack's father suggests to Hudson. "No," he squirms with exquisite embarrassment. "I have trouble enough finding oil."

Exchanges like that have gained new resonance since Hudson's homosexuality came out of the closet. With so much flaunting of female charms going on, especially by Dorothy Malone as Stack's nymphomaniac sister, no wonder Hudson looks such a prune. Other subtexts are planted deliberately. Sirk may have been treating corny magazine fiction, but he shoots it with such intensity and insight that the film builds into a searing critique of American society, smart on the surface, sick at its heart.

Social criticism was big in the 1950s, but most American films could only be meaningful through leaning on serious plays and novels, or blaring out messages (take the images of Stanley Kramer). Sirk makes his force felt through images, through colour, design and a balletic camera, completely transforming his shallow source material. The film's meaning rests in no character's sermon, but in Malone's pink dress, Stack's yellow car, the windows, mirrors and curtains that speak of loneliness and separation. Sirk's high style made him a cult director long before his death

in 1987, and the present revival forms part of a general retrospective at the National Film Theatre. Those over-fond of their own sophistication may snigger at *Written on the Wind*: the rest of us will smile, certainly, but we'll also be moved and exalted by the best, the boldest and most radiantly cinematic film of the week.

**The Wings of the Dove** brings us back to earth with a bump. This is "heritage" cinema, with Helena Bonham Carter, Pre-Raphaelite frocks, an array of fine houses, Venetian gondolas and the words of the master, Henry James. The director is not your usual movie entrepreneur of literary classics: he is Iain Softley, who celebrated the Beatles' early life in *Backbeat* and went frantically fizzy making *Hackers* in Hollywood. Nor does he play safe and academic: he and his adapter, Hossein

Amini (the writer of *Jude*), raise the sex quotient, and allow late 20th-century fears and frustrations to penetrate the characters' heads.

But we still remain stuck in a rut: a pretty rut, no doubt, especially when the action shifts to Venice. It is carnival time: all is hustle and bustle as orange flares light the sky. But where is the passion to make us care hugely about Bonham Carter's wilful Kate (subtle, appealing) and the unsuitable journalist Merton (Linus Roache, none too excited) who has won her heart? Difficult, too, to wring our hands over Milly, the American heiress (Alison Elliott) who is found to be dying, and is pushed by Kate towards Merton's arms for various reasons, emotional and financial. Fine acting, on the whole: rich costumes from Sandy Powell; sumptuous photography by Eduardo Serra. But the whole is so easy to shrug off.

## 'Out of this world'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...



**STARSHIP TROOPERS**  
Carl Clark, 19: Out of this world. This crazy movie could easily have been made by Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer. Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: Only a European director could have given us such a dry, ironic movie. A delightful surprise.  
Laura Brook, 19: A great big homage to "B" movies. A film not to be taken too seriously. Eleanor Zeal, 19: Ken and Barbie go into action in this very dark comedy. Definitely spend some of your Christmas money on this one.

**THE WINGS OF THE DOVE**  
Carl: Linus Roache delivers a brilliantly pitched perfor-

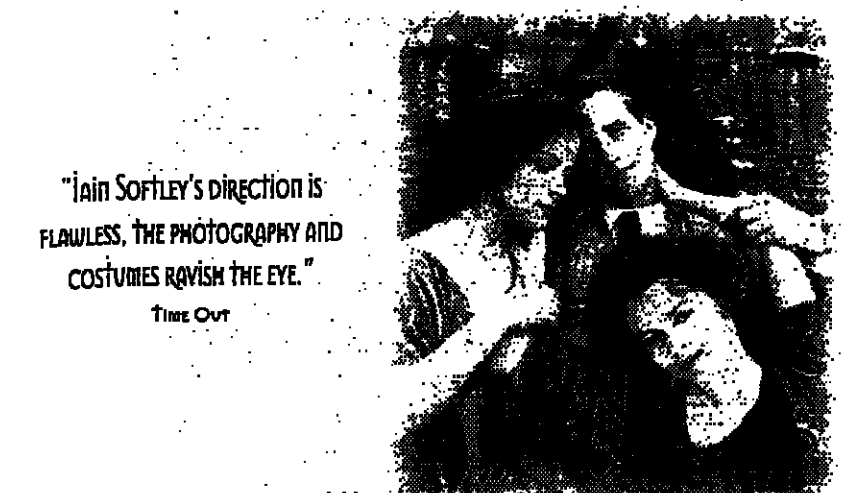
mance. This boy is Oscar material.  
Leslie: The casting of former model Alison Elliott is unforgivable. She single-handedly devalues this film.  
Laura: Undoubtedly the best performance of Helena Bonham Carter's career. But on the other hand, is that saying all that much?  
Eleanor: Haunting, beautifully filmed and directed. The cast, excluding Elliott, is magnificent.

"MAGNIFICENT... SPELLBINDING... BRILLIANTLY REINVENTS HENRY JAMES FOR THE NINETIES."  
MARK KERNODE RADIO 1

"THE OSCAR RACE HAS KICKED OFF WITH HELENA BONHAM CARTER THE FRONT RUNNER AS BEST ACTRESS."  
EVENING STANDARD

### HELENA BONHAM CARTER

NOMINATED - BEST ACTRESS AWARD GOLDEN GLOBE 1997  
WINNER - BEST ACTRESS AWARD 1997 LA FILM CRITICS CIRCLE  
WINNER - BEST ACTRESS AWARD 1997 NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW  
WINNER - BEST ACTRESS AWARD 1997 BOSTON FILM CRITICS CIRCLE



"Iain Softley's direction is FLAWLESS. THE PHOTOGRAPHY AND COSTUMES RAVISH THE EYE."  
Tina Ovi

"NOT ONLY GORGEOUS TO LOOK AT, BUT ALSO SEXY, INTELLIGENT AND UTTERLY ABSORBING."  
MARIE CLAIRE

HELENA BONHAM CARTER LINUS ROACHE ALISON ELLIOTT  
**THE WINGS OF THE DOVE**

MIRAMAX FILMS PRESENTS A RENAISSANCE FILMS PRODUCTION. AN IAIN SOFTLEY FILM 'THE WINGS OF THE DOVE' HELENA BONHAM CARTER, LINUS ROACHE, ALISON ELLIOTT, ELIZABETH MCCOY, MICHAEL GAMBON, ALEX JENNINGS AND CHARLOTTE RAMPING. CASTING MICHELLE GUSH. COSTUME DESIGNER SANDY POWELL. MUSIC BY EDWARD SHEARER. EDITOR TAJLO ANWAR. PRODUCTION DESIGNER JOHN BEARD. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY EDUARDO SERRA A.F.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BOB WEINSTEIN HARVEY WEINSTEIN PAUL FELDMAN. BASED ON THE NOVEL BY HENRY JAMES. SCREENPLAY NOSSIEIN AMINI. PRODUCED BY STEPHEN EVANS AND DAVID PARFITT. DIRECTED BY IAIN SOFTLEY.

STARTS TOMORROW  
AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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**STARSHIP TROOPERS**  
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ENLIST TOMORROW AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Malcolm Bradbury applauds Don DeLillo's latest skyscraping millennial tome



A mighty hit for baseball literature: 1951 game between the Giants and the Dodgers where Bobby Thompson scored a home run for the Giants

Not just a game of ball

In the last months the Great American Novel, the white whale of Am lit, has struck back with a vengeance. Philip Roth published *American Pastoral*, a tale of America's eternally dying innocence, of loving America and hating it. Thomas Pynchon returned to the fray with his massive, adventurous *Mason & Dixon*, the flawed but fascinating pseudo-18th-century tale of the drawing of the dividing line that still splits the American soul.

With both more and less ambition, Norman Mailer gave us not Americana but his own fifth gospel, in the form of an auto-narrative of Jesus, *The Gospel According to the Son*. Only Saul Bellow — once the maker of some of the best postwar American epics (*The Adventures of Augie March*, *Henderson the Rain King*) — offered more modest fare. His novella *The Actualist* is a controlled, splendid testament to what fiction can do when the aim is not magnitude but condensation.

Now Don DeLillo enters the great game with *Underworld*, a project of 827 pages. It comes accompanied with familiar hype, culled from unquestionably ecstatic American reviews. It's the "ascension of a great writer", it "places him in first line for the Nobel Prize", it's "the defining novel of the post-Cold War period", it's "nothing short of a bible for the new millennium". Millennium is a key word, and perhaps helps to explain the explosion of huge texts. We're at the end of a century, the American century. And the novel,

which built many of its myths, seems ready to write its record or obituary. DeLillo is an unquestionably important writer, whose ascent occurred mostly during the 1980s, with *White Noise*, *Libra*, *Mao II*. This puts him a generation younger than the other contenders, and he's something of a generational voice — influencing younger writers, capturing a key Post-Modern mood. Often, splendidly funny, he's explored the banality, boredom, violence, terrorism, tabloid futility, plentitude and junk of current, neo-filmic American culture, where the world is too full of things, history is replaced by soundtrack or vacant nostalgia. In rhythmic and mannered prose, he writes somewhere near the edge of science fiction, about a universe where disaster is part of the American way: so the chemical disaster of *White Noise*, the Kennedy assassination in *Libra*. A phrase in the early *Ratner's Star* captures his note: in contemporary America, he observes, "existence is nourished from below, from the fear level, the place of awareness".

UNDERWORLD  
By Don DeLillo  
Picador, £18  
ISBN 0 330 35422 9

Testament to blooming youth

VANESSA BELL has been called the Queen Bee of the hive that was Bloomsbury. Sister of Virginia Woolf, the wife of the art critic Clive Bell and lover of the painters Roger Fry and Duncan Grant, she was herself an artist whose work achieves a natural quality of abstraction by simplifying shapes and colours. Her version of Virginia in the National Portrait Gallery is remarkable because it is almost faceless, yet instantly recognisable. Vanessa was unlike the rest of Bloomsbury in that she never thought of herself as any kind of writer. This is what makes her *Sketches in Pen and Ink* so valuable and so interesting. It consists of half a dozen pieces written to be read aloud to a private circle of friends, candid accounts of the persons who mattered most to her, plus an unpretentious talk on art which she gave at her son's school. It is notable that all the chosen biographical subjects come from the first half of her long life. Later, when she was married to Bell but in love with the basically homosexual Grant, it perhaps got too complicated and painful to be set forth in simple memoir form. The character of Queen Bee comes over clearly: Vanessa is the one around whom others buzz. Her writing sparks into life when she has something physical to recall — the way her grandmother washed her penies before giving them to charity, the thrill as a child of finding the corpse of a black dog in Kensington Gardens. Everywhere it is a painter's eye that sees. She confesses that she cannot remember a time when she did not mean to be a painter, just as Virginia was always going to be a

writer. The relationship between the two of them is never analysed, but expressed instead by vivid emblems. Virginia "reminded me all ways of a sweet pea of a special flame colour" writes Vanessa, and she goes back to picture the future author of *The Waves* at the age of two, "a very rosy, chubby baby, with bright green eyes, sitting in a high chair at the nursery table drumming impatiently for her breakfast". But there is the occasional non-visual illumination, such as the disclosure that their father taught them arithmetic so badly that as a result Virginia added up on her fingers all her life. Vanessa also tells a tale that I cannot remember reading in any biography — how the young Virginia sent one of her first stories to *Tit Bits* for a competition and it was rejected, while Arnold Bennett won the prize. Illustrated with Vanessa Bell's own drawings and woodcuts, this is a delightful volume. Because the memoirs were written not to be read but to be heard, they have a quality of talk, or buzzing family gossip. "Silent as the grave," Virginia said once of her sister. Now Vanessa has the last word, from beyond the tomb. It is not a spiteful word, but it has the singular sharp taste of truth.

More predictable argument

IF you look back over the high points of our civilisation — Periclean Athens, Augustan Rome, medieval Paris, Renaissance Italy, Shakespeare's England — you find societies actively renewing themselves, but with an eye to history. The important questions concerned heroes, divine revelations and historical examples. The future, which was shaping itself in their minds and actions, was the natural by-product of a respect for the past. It is one sign that things are not well with our own period that we have lost sight of the past and devote our moral energy to the future. Now, the future has this advantage over the past: you can change it. But this does not outweigh its enormous disadvantage: that you cannot know it, and therefore can learn nothing from studying it other than a morbid obsession with change. Of course, you can predict the future. But you can do so only by studying the past. And even so, certain matters — and among them the most important — are essentially unpredictable. You cannot predict the course of future knowledge. To do so you must already possess it. You cannot

Seeing truth in fiction

ELAINE FEINSTEIN  
THE LAST ENGLISH KING  
By Julian Rathbone  
Little, Brown, £16.99  
ISBN 0 316 64131 1

LITTLE though I know of Harold, the eponymous last King of these islands, by the end of this novel I was altogether persuaded of Rathbone's Euroscopic vision of William's victory as a disaster. England before the Norman Conquest may not have been a lost paradise of rich local cheese, mugs of ale and oaten roasted whole; yet, conquering armies no doubt behaved with as much cruelty then as now. After William's invasion, there would have been dead women lying with clothes high around their necks on the hillside, and carrion birds gorging themselves on the eyes of their victims. But then, Rathbone is a very clever writer. Walt, King Harold's loyal servant, may lead the reader along patches of salmon-coloured valerian for a time, but as soon as Walt speaks, he uses the street language of our own day. Decisions of state are made in the vocabulary of City traders or political spin-doctors at once ruthless and evasive; a manipulative bishop sounds like Francis Urquhart in *House of Cards*, as he advises the dying Edward the Confessor that his King may think whatever he chooses, while he "could not possibly express an opinion". There is a plot which turns on Edward's wish for holiness

Backings the future

tempts to summarise our knowledge, and make a few judicious guesses. Being careful scientists, Goudie and Ridley do no more than sketch the possibilities, recognising the *unreliability* of their subject-matter, and the large number of unknown variables. If Ridley is right, however, the appalling prospect lies before us of DNA vaccinations, which will rid the world of all major diseases. This possibility is not mentioned by John Clarke in his book on population, which is concerned with the extrapolation of statistical trends, rather than the search for unprecedented factors. But it would make nonsense of Clarke's view that world population is due to stabilise during the course of the next century. On the other hand, if we take François Heisbourg seriously, new weapons may come to the rescue — if Saddam Hussein has anything to do with it (and Bernard Lewis, in his study of the Middle East, does not rule out the possibility). And there again is the prospect — frightening to me, but not to Robert Winston, who makes a living out of it — of genetic manipulation, and the production of a new human type, immune to misfortunes, and able to breed in test-tubes while the rest of us die from anthrax, nerve gas or gamma rays. Reading these books in sequence, one is given a vivid impression of the sheer darkness of modern life, and of the self-deception which enables our gurus to disguise their desires as predictions, and thereby to stifle debate. Hugh

earliest desire of a man who understands what is at stake.

Perhaps the maddest of all these books (and you have to be pretty mad to out-do Lord Winston, with his cool assertion that "for the time being, it seems, women will continue to give birth in the old-fashioned manner") is Dave Hill's perspective on the future of men. Feminism, gay liberation, the loss of economic roles, and all the other evils that have afflicted our sex, have left us, apparently, in a state of total moral collapse. The situation, Hill tells us, is really *serious*. (Italics are an essential part of the style.) We must do something instantly, otherwise there won't be any men — merely human beings with male appendages. And if Lord Winston is right even they won't be necessary. Hill thinks we must create a new kind of masculinity — one that will be acceptable to women in the Post-Modern age. Fortunately, when it comes to such crucial matters as sexual attraction, women are as pre-modern as men. And, having followed our gurus into the future, I would give to men the same advice as they receive from their women: don't think about it, and get on with the job.

The mighty voice of little England

John Boynton Priestley was certainly the most prolific, probably the most successful, and possibly the most technically accomplished writer of his time. He was also a living paradox. Priestley looked and sounded the personification of dour, Yorkshire tranquillity. But he lived in such emotional confusion that it is hard to imagine how he concentrated on his work. And, despite his straightforward prose and blunt speaking, he was fascinated, if not by the supernatural, by something close to it: three of his plays were dramatizations of Copernicus's theory that time moves in a spiral not a straight line, enabling the "chosen ones" to relive the past and redeem their mistakes. Yet he also wrote and read the wartime *Postscripts* which, until the BBC lost its nerve, told the truth about how the Second World War started and why, after it was over, British society needed to change. A figure of such complexity — with an enthusiasm for literary criticism and an eye for actresses — ought to inspire an effervescent biography. Unfortunately, Judith Cook has not written one. *Priestley* — the book, as distinct from the man — plods and gushes simultaneously and is written in an infuriatingly chummy style. When Priestley's *Postscripts* were attacked by the *Daily Mail* as socialist propaganda, the *Picture Post* came stoutly to his defence and attacked the records of his critics — particularly Brendan Bracken, the Minister of Information and pre-war apologist for Hitler and Mussolini. Having described the magazine's pro-Priestley article, Cook concludes: "Game, set and match to *Picture Post*." Priestley would never have used such a cliché or described what readers already understood. Because of the breadth of Priestley's talent, the temptation to grade his writing in an order of spurious merit is irresistible. In my view, the novels — for which in his time he was most famous — are the weakest link in his literary chain. *The Good Companions* made him rich and famous but, as Ms Cook explains, publishers were not enthusiastic about bringing out a long picaresque novel of backstage life. We now know that their commercial judgment was appalling. But their literary reservations were certainly justified. *The Good Companions* was middlebrow fiction at its worst — sentimental, dependent on improbable coincidences. Yet, until *An Inspector Calls* enjoyed its recent revival, it was the Priestley work which most people remembered.

ROY HATTERSLEY considers the Priestley paradox

There is much to be said in favour of commercially successful writing and Priestley himself rejoiced at writing for what might be described as an informed but popular audience. Indeed, he gloried in that status. His essays (probably his best work), his plays (from the hilarious *When We Are Married to the sombre *An Inspector Calls**) and his *English Journey* all came from the heart of England — middle-class and perhaps middle-aged as well as middlebrow. At its best, Priestley's writing reflects both the virtues and vices of those conditions. *English Journey* ends with the glor-



Records of a prolific writer: at home in Highgate

Dance the of tir







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New

Recr

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# New Year Jumbo Crossword Competition

### ACROSS

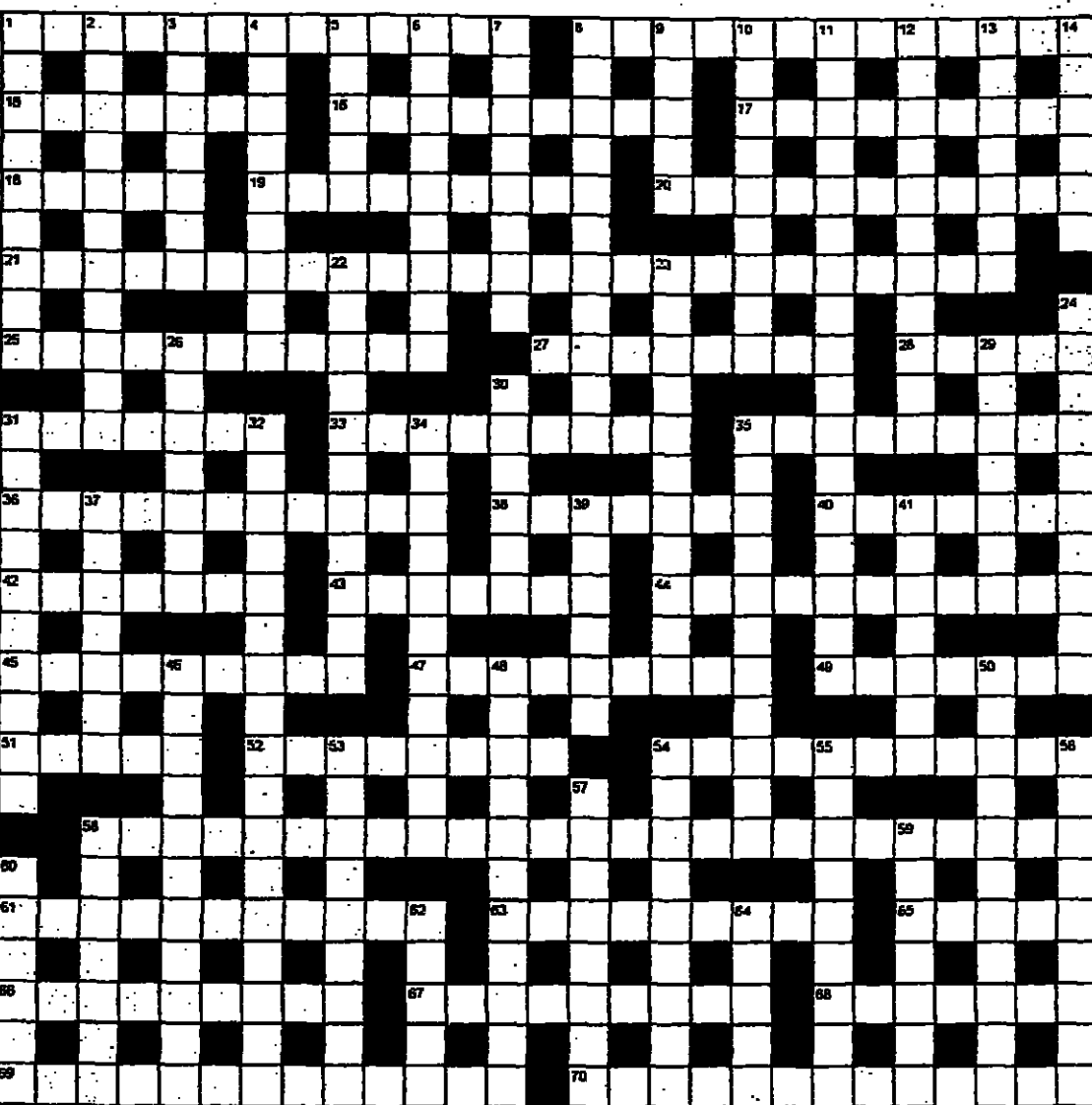
- Tackling all the Jumbos? That's the drill! (6-7)
- They may be drawn on card, when first for Christmas rush is designed (13)
- It's not going to work! (7)
- Can't they get on with the game? (9)
- Pay attention to the Times letters page? (9)
- The cast may have a fling (5)
- That woman with German's mature - such couples can't stay here (9)
- Dealing with road transport supremo (11)
- Invitation to become a partner in poetry publishing company (4,4,2,3,2,2,4)
- Vain, as suggested by his elfin appearance (4-11)
- Become bored, going back over article from Asmara? (8)
- County featuring in half of logistical analysis (5)
- One may come from Yorkshire, perhaps after Christmas (7)
- Searches after support, and makes looks appear thicker (9)
- Likely to collapse - time one tends to flap about (5-4)
- What's needed to deal with outrage that's spoiled holiday? (7,4)
- It may be antique - tis so described (7)
- Avid to return and perform here in Milan (2,5)
- Jewellery available is sound as a bell (4,3)
- Leather is suitable for members of the family (7)
- Succinctly described colonel's reported location (2,1,8)
- Made excessive demands - that's clear-cut (9)
- Range of holidays available in Wales (9)
- Spy ring (7)
- Left an obscure actor (5)
- One's managed to be present for an appointment (8)
- Short bloke, with two women from Eastenders, bit of a Casanova? (11)
- However good one's intentions, leaving everything completely in order? (4,3,4,2,3,5)
- Some released emotions in battle, brandishing sabre about (11)
- African citizen made a point he and I develop (9)
- Nick may be hard hit (5)
- Follow-up to one hit describing type of bike? (5-6)
- Love to make quota, having trouble initially (9)
- Exploded mine? Skirting it in retreat, observe 16, perhaps (7)
- A loud warning to get in position, starting the Oaks? (13)
- Saw something nice, and made choice with colour in mind (13)

### DOWN

- Slave from Greek state, stubborn? Not halt! (9)
- Interpreted code, not getting beaten (11)
- Granting further licence for the extension of a loan (7)
- Composer paid a visit - concert's last Sussex town held (9)
- Second inferior track (5)
- Put a stamp on, one with mark in capitals? (9)
- Policeman with information on armed criminal (8)
- One branches out, having put up wicked contributions (11)
- Put out surprising result (5)
- One common English vowel's heard in this Indian language (9)
- Using intelligence, times quick pass inside very successfully (4,6,7)
- Talk about rising evidence of debt, knowing how to be extortionate (11)
- So a man may be taken off the board (2,5)
- Shoots self-righteous individual on board (6)
- Close to discovery, given first experience, being passionate (4-7)
- Hate to discourage Nick right away (11)
- Holiday cut short - rule out one way to alert the public (4,6)
- US city, elegant in the past (7)
- Copy one couple, hiding sex appeal (7)
- Footballer twice missing headers, shooting for the Gunners (3-5)
- Note in previous printing of Pound? (5,5)
- High hopes for Estella's booking (5,12)
- Monopolises group's character - the essential part (11)
- Calling a halt before dismissals are finalised (11)
- Satisfied with material in a speech (7)
- Similar articles supporting leaders of protest movement in the country (6)
- Put on hold, or hang up? (7)
- I'll ask for a rise, having said my piece - and a drink! (11)
- Delighted to find where young child's jumper went (4,3,4)
- Am I left to incorporate distinguishing feature one has? (11)
- Things occurring in odd manner - hope that turns out right (9)
- Stocks pasty dishes - I turn up, to tuck in (9)
- Article he meant to rewrite about smart London club (9)
- Put in order again, and read what's left aloud (9)
- In a whirl, having such a fling (8)
- Opus started to dispose of excess energy, perhaps (4,3)
- Partners facing grim film (7)
- Mother receives aunt, removing loose gown (6)
- Teacher one stomachs turning up (5)
- Mind if man or woman follows this? It's rather private (5)

### TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, January 19, 1998. Entries should be sent to: New Year Jumbo Crossword (144), The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, January 24



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### Times Two Crossword

There are no prizes for this competition. The answers will be published on Monday, January 12, 1998.

### ACROSS

- One always 'ill' (1,3)
- Charitably generous (13)
- Girl working in pub (7)
- Aborigine wander: royal meet-public session (9)
- Has short break (5,4)
- Drive back (5)
- Giving out (task) (9)
- Antirrhinum (11)
- In least welcome eventual-ity (2,3,5,5,2,3,5)
- Country-park walk (6,5)
- Spanish ranch (8)
- Ruth's mother-in-law (5)
- Riding: ga-hing (7)
- Hypocritical (9)
- S limit of Palestine (Bible) (9)
- Social meeting (3-8)
- Got less dark (7)
- Al fresco (4-3)
- Guernica artist (7)
- Grand National course (7)
- In irritable haste (11)
- Disease (picked up) (9)
- Player at eg Oval (9)
- Left out (7)
- Art exhibition hall (5)
- A peer (8)
- Motorists' exam (7,4)
- Open Sesame! panto (3,4,3,5,7)
- Whom one succeeded (11)
- Create new word (9)
- Picardy department, river: WWI theatre (5)
- One remonstrating (9)
- Review, find fault with (9)
- Everlasting (7)
- Eg A, H-bomb (7,2)
- Having too much to manage (1,3)

### DOWN

- Irish: a Scottish team (9)
- Travelling (teacher) (11)
- A fool: tail-end gunner (7)
- One different from others (3,3,3)
- Swallows: chalk hills (5)
- Unreasonable (9)
- Inspirational charm (8)
- Farmer's cutting blade (11)
- Metrical stress (5)
- Volga city; a dark fur (9)
- Deflate pretensions (4,4,1,3,2,3)
- Eating houses (11)
- Disburged (4,3)
- Fold (6)
- N coast of S America (since) (7,4)
- Fagin novel (Dickens) (6,5)
- Thrown into confusion (10)
- Destructive (7)
- Ham it up (7)
- Rud fisherman (6)
- Caiaphas rank (4,6)
- Our dating system (9,8)
- Thoroughly scrub/tidy house (6-5)
- Napoleonic follower (11)
- Diplomatic (7)
- Athens their capital (6)
- Later part of day (7)
- Thoughtful, kind (11)
- Moment of heedlessness (11)
- Year (arch.) (11)
- (Fr.) bar with food (9)
- Remove smell (from) (9)
- At, from, the back (2,3,4)
- With decorative hanging tufts (9)
- Apache chieftain: I'm no ogre (anag.) (8)
- Sharp (remark) (7)
- Look carefully at (7)
- Improvement (6)
- Go over again (abbr.) (5)
- Articles, details (5)

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# Race to beat the Year 2000 bug

As computer disaster threatens, Manus Costello and Jason Nissé report on industry's fightback

If you work on the railways, do not plan a large family get-together for Christmas Day, 1999. Railtrack — the privatised group that owns all the stations, tracks and signalling — is cancelling leave for many of its staff for that day and is encouraging companies that run train services and many of its suppliers to follow suit.

The reason? The millennium bug — a problem that affects many computers, software systems and even simple electronic devices such as lifts and toasters because they were not programmed to deal with the change of date from December 31, 1999, to January 1, 2000.

Railtrack has already spent £30 million to sort out its computer systems and it is working with the other rail groups to co-ordinate an industry-wide solution. Although Phillip Collins, Railtrack's Year 2000 programme director, is confident that the problem will be under control long before the end of 1999, he will not be sure until Christmas Day. "That is the only day we can test the systems because it is the only day of the year that the rail network will be closed."

Railtrack is one of thousands of companies cancelling leave for Christmas and New Year, two years hence. The millennium bug issue is a massive headache for British industry and — in one of the most comprehensive surveys ever completed, *The Times* has questioned more than 100 of the country's leading companies about how they are dealing with the bug, what they think will happen on January 1, 2000, and what will be the cost.

The results have been startling — ranging from companies such as Associated British Foods and British Land, which refused to discuss their preparedness, to groups such as BT, Allied Domecq and Railtrack, which have sophisticated programmers in place to deal with the problem and are working with their suppliers to make sure that they are able to deal with it.

So how did the problem arise? Blame largely rests with programmers working in the late 1970s and early 1980s installing computer systems.

According to Terry Rickaby, a technology recruitment expert with First Ross Martin, programmers knew about the problem but ignored it because of the tight budgets to which they were working. "Technology was far more expensive and less prioritised in the past, and shortening the date codes to two digits was a good way of keeping costs down," he said.

What the engineers did was to programme the year into the system as, say, "97" instead of "1997". This means that when it comes to 2000, the computer thinks that it is in 1900. No one knows how the system will react to this shock.

Keith Todd, chief executive of ICL, the computer group, says that the engineers should not bear the entire blame. "They should have thought about it, but they believed it would not be an issue," he said. "The software and hardware has lasted much longer than their expected lifecycles."

The cost of the bug has been estimated to run into tens of billions of pounds. From the companies that were willing to discuss the costs, there was a great variation in how much is being spent.

The cost estimates that *The Times* has received vary from the well-publicised £300 million spent out by Unilever — which, it has to be remembered, is a huge organisation operating in more than 100 countries — and the £200 million to £300 million that BT reckons its programme could cost, right down to the £2.5 million that 3i, the venture capitalist, claims it will cost to reprogramme its computers. Of the companies in the FTSE 100, only 19 were willing to give an estimate of the costs of their millennium projects. The total cost for these alone comes to £1.36 billion. The total cost for FTSE companies probably exceeds £5 billion.

These estimates are probably on the low side. Most companies have not completed their Year 2000 evaluation projects, and so have included only the costs of dealing with their computers, in which the problems are easy to detect, and not with the embedded



Time is running out for companies to right the wrongs of the past, with the costs of eradicating the computer bug growing as the Year 2000 draws near

systems in their day-to-day equipment.

Also, some companies will not have allowed for the spiralling cost of hiring people to sort out the problems. Much of the computer code that has to be amended was written in computer languages not widely

used these days, and some firms have hired retired software technicians to tackle the problem. Others have farmed work out to India, where there are many talented and relatively low-paid software engineers who can do the work. However, even Indian com-

puter technicians are realising their market value.

Keith Todd says that it is not only the writers of computer code who will be able to name their price. "Programme managers able to deal with large-scale reviews are in short supply," he said. "It is hard to

put a price on people who have experience actually managing complex projects."

According to Phillip Collins at Railtrack, anyone without a comprehensive Year 2000 programme in place by next spring will be in trouble meeting the Year 2000 deadline. No one

knows what will happen as 2000 draws, whether aircraft will fall out of the sky or lifts will stop working. However, with the likes of BA threatening not to fly to countries that are not Year 2000-compliant, there is sure to be much disruption heralding the new era.

## Tackling challenges on two fronts

MANY banks are combining work on the Year 2000 bug with upgrading systems for EMU.

Alliance & Leicester has a programme involving staff and external people to be completed by the end of 1998. The estimated cost is £30 million to £40 million.

Abbey National sees the millennium bug as an opportunity to upgrade older systems. Its project, running under the finance director, should be finished by the end of 1998. The cost is £75 million over three years.

HSBC has a worldwide programme established for some time. It is worried, though, about small and medium-sized companies with which it deals and is trying to make them more aware. For Midland Bank alone, HSBC estimates that 400 main years stand cost up to £5 million.

Lloyds TSB set up its project a few years ago and it will be completed in November 1998. All systems are being checked. The work will cost £300 million.

NatWest sees the millennium bug as a serious problem. Its initial studies proved that without action, the bank would be unable to function. It started its work early last year and 500 employees are due to finish it by the end of 1998. The problems are not so much technical as logistical. "Every machine must be examined in time. It will cost NatWest £90 million in the UK alone."

Royal Bank of Scotland has set up a team and will ensure that all its systems are compliant by the end of 1998. It will cost £29 million.

### BRITISH TELECOM

BT started looking at the millennium bug problem two years ago and it believes that starting early has kept costs down. All computer systems and telephone exchanges need checking and there are several hundred people working full time on the problem; they are confident that work will be completed by the end of 1998. BT claims to be a leader in the telecommunications sector on this issue. The main concern now is with international telephone companies that may not all be compliant. However, the worst-case scenario is only that BT will be unable to bill international calls. The bug project will cost between £200 million and £300 million.



Asda, the supermarket chain, has called in IBM to do its systems support work

### ASDA

ASDA started looking at the millennium bug problem a year ago. It has outsourced its systems support to IBM, which is dealing with Asda as part of its global programme. Sainsbury's team was set up at the start of 1996 and has established that 14,000 separate programs need checking. Sainsbury aims to

have completed its internal conversion by October 1998 and has set up a hotline for suppliers to call with questions about the issue. The estimated cost across the group is £40 million.

Sainsbury's Year 2000 team plans to finish its work next year. The company has appointed divisional Year 2000 managers and engaged a

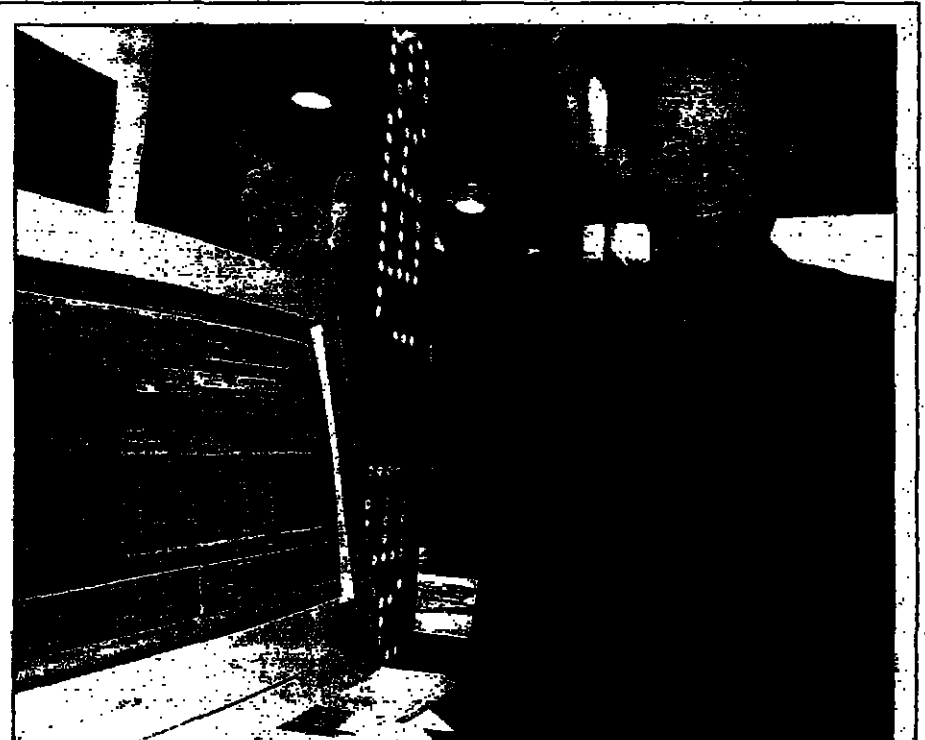
company, Magus, to handle corrective work, which is being done in India. The total cost will be around £5 million.

Tesco has been working towards the millennium for some time and believes that it is well ahead of the competition. The work will cost £30 million to £35 million over three years.

THE checking of Allied Domecq's computers and other systems is to be completed by the end of this year. An electrical consultancy has been employed to look at embedded systems. The total cost is estimated at £5 million to £10 million. All leave has been cancelled for the beginning of 2000. The company's computer network will be turned off from 00:00 2000 in New Zealand until 00:00 2000 in San Francisco and then slowly brought back into operation.

DIXONS has projects in place — one for the electrical goods it sells and one for the company's internal systems. The systems project began in 1996 and will check all systems by the end of 1998; it has its own full-time staff and will cost £9 million. With products sold, Dixons is regularly checking that they are Year 2000-compliant, but, if a customer's PC fails, it will provide a free upgrade.

THE mobile telephone companies Orange and Vodafone are confident that they can deal with the issue easily because their systems are relatively new. Vodafone's bug team should finish its work by the end of 1998. The main problem will be billing customers correctly.



Peter Job, chief executive, plans to charge some clients for fixing the problem

EVERY blue-chip company has a millennium problem of some kind, but so far Reuters has become the only one not to assure its shareholders that it will be able to meet the 2000 deadline.

It falls into the highest risk millennium bug category because it generates most of its profits through its own network of computers used

by clients around the world. The company, of which Peter Job is chief executive, has, over the years, amassed a mixed network of computers using all kinds of software, further complicating the task.

This means that the company's software engineers will be heavily employed in sniffing out potential hitch-

es in each individual model. With such a task in hand, Reuters plans to charge some of its clients for fixing the problem. It realises that many will protest against paying for a problem stemming from defects in Reuters' software — but stockbrokers who need their computers fixed overnight will have little time to argue.

# Tips for businesses on how to tackle technological terror

BRITAIN has been the first country to give official government advice about how to tackle the millennium bug — but its main tip is that businesses should buy its own six-volume guide at £374 a copy.

The Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA), set up to support the Government's own computer system, has made public its in-house manual that advises government agencies on how to tackle the problem. This is no standard government

missive. The guide comes with cartoons showing businessmen sitting on unexploded bombs and others at their desks overlooked by a grim reaper bearing a sand-timer and scythe.

The main points, which are aimed at medium-sized companies, can be divided as follows:

- Categorisation: Companies must work out which computer systems are errant and whether these should be replaced, repaired or ignored. For example, if a fax machine's millennium bug could

mean it just prints the wrong data, a new machine need not be ordered.

For old computers that would have been replaced in the next few years, bringing forward the IT spending will shortcut expensive repair work.

- Separate planning: The CCTA says that companies should draw up a two-year plan and set aside a

Year 2000 budget that should be enough to cope with all eventualities. Quarterly updates are advised to allow expenditure to be reviewed as often as possible and to ensure programs do not spin out of control.

- Urgency: Whatever work needs to be done, delay will prove very expensive as consultants continue to put up the fees as the millennium

draws near. Many computer firms forecast that their costs will double over the next 12 months.

- Suppliers: Companies should seek written guarantees from their suppliers promising that their service will not be interrupted by the millennium.
- The smaller the supplier, the less the risk — but nevertheless, businesses can still be crippled by a

domino effect unless the right precautions are taken.

- Management: With so much at stake, the CCTA urges senior managers to take a personal involvement in Year 2000 projects and not leave the issue solely in the hands of IT departments.
- The CCTA has come under fire for charging so much money for the fruits of its research. Many businesses think that the Government should provide the advice as a public service.
- However, the agency says that

each volume of the guide should save companies one day's consultancy fees — about £700 a day. It adds that the guide is one of the few objective commentaries in the market as the CCTA has no vested interest in anything beyond selling its book.

*Tackling the Year 2000*, a six-volume work, is available for £320 a copy, excluding value-added tax. Individual volumes can be bought for £72, excluding value-added tax. To order, telephone 0800-146-0000.











# Howlers, hooters and hubristic prophets

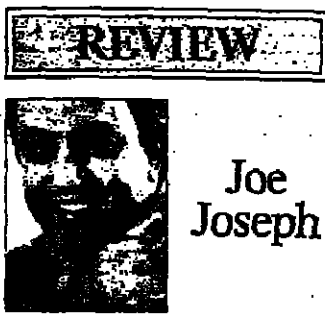
There's no need to feel sorry for yourself just because you spent yesterday watching celebrating this special time of year with the traditional custom of elbowing through crowds of crazed strangers in the sales to buy a shirt that will stand out in your wardrobe because (a) it is still twice as expensive as anything else actually worn. So here's the good news: there is possibly an even sadder human being in the world than you.

It's referring, of course, to Dr David Mech, a "world-renowned wolf biologist" but a stranger to me until I saw Wolf (BBC1), the last of David Attenborough's Wildlife Specials. Now Dr Mech is a wolf with years of field experience of the wolf world. But — are you ready? — he has hardly ever seen an actual wolf. This is not because he is a lazy wolf-reno wolf

biologist, but because wolves — fed up with being persecuted — have grown wary and elusive. The wolf's elusiveness is not Dr Mech's fault, of course, but you can hardly call it an altogether rewarding state of affairs: it's the wolf world's equivalent of being a grown man who never gets to progress beyond looking at pictures in Playboy. But while wolves are no longer persecuted, they remain very elusive. That's why rangers in Canadian national parks now lead nocturnal tours for animal-lovers keen for a little wolf-contact. But knowing that they will never actually get to see a real wolf, the rangers merely emit lupine howls until they hear wolves howling back at them. But can they trust what they hear out there? It's Devon who discovered an owl nesting in his back garden. Each night he would go out to look at it. It hooted back. He was overjoyed.

Months later, his wife happened to mention this nightly hooter to her neighbour, who replied that, as it happened, her husband, Fred, had also detected an owl in their back garden and he, too, had been hooting at it every night. The two men had spent months blissfully hooting at each other.

So who knows what or who is howling back at those Canadians, Jack Lemmon and Michael Douglas. An investigative reporter and a cameraman record a disturbing incident at a nuclear power plant. Directed by James Bridges (282248).



Joe Joseph

from Hollywood, European Monetary Union, an oil boom in Azerbaijan and orbiting space stations. All the way to Chinese chardonnay and postage stamps which require no licking.

But the trouble with trying to steal a march on the future like this is that life always, effortlessly trumps your widest expectations. If life in 1998 were going to be as predictably ho-hum as Peter Snow

makes out, we might as well fast-forward into 1999 right now. But Decisive Moments (BBC2), which looked back at some of the images from the news of 1997, reminded you just how unwarding second-guessing can be. Who could have predicted the saga of Tony Blair, or the success of the Spice Girls, or the scale of Tony Blair's election victory, or his later Formula One mess, or that Liz Taylor would undergo brain surgery, or that Diana, Princess of Wales would holiday with Mohamed Al Fayed, then with Dodi, then would die, that a person called Nicola Horlick even existed, that the Bridgewater three would walk free, that a British nanny would be found guilty of murdering a baby in America, that Michael Hutchence would end his life in Sydney, or that Gerry Adams would be made welcome at 10 Downing Street?

Of course, to most of us, these splashy headlines were merely passing trifles compared to the great joys and unanticipated sadnesses that shaped our own "un-newsworthy" lives. In Cold Enough for Snow (BBC1), Jack Rosenthal's wonderfully warm companion piece to Eskimo Day, we glimpsed just how scary that unknown world ahead of us can be. Two sets of doing parents — the working-class Whittles and the lah-de-lah Lloyds — whose children have both just left home for university, are devastated by how swiftly their humdrum, orderly lives could tip, without any warning, into chaos.

Beverly Whittle, who cannot break the habit of laying the table for three, has an emotional breakdown; his wife, Shan, sets her face to the future by enrolling them both in an evening class. Hugh Lloyd surprises him-

self by suddenly becoming a besotted, devoted father to his daughter, Harriet, Hugh's neglected wife, slithers into a preposterous and unsatisfying affair with an antique dealer. The four — played by David Ross, Maureen Lipman, Tom Wilkinson and Anna Carteret — convey exquisitely just how hard they are finding it to catch their breath in the airlessness of such an unforeseen emotional vacuum. There isn't a single flashy line of dialogue in the entire script, yet every sentence refracts the light in dazzling and unexpected directions: the humour is undercut with tenderness in a way that Rosenthal has made his trademark.

All of us in our own ways are howling into the unknown, hoping to hear some reassuring sound come back in response, a friendly signal from the future. Even if it's only Fred in Devon hooting at an owl. And a very happy new year to you, too.

- BBC1**
- 7.00am Puddington Peas (1224178) 7.05 Teletubbies (2032348) 7.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (8497975) 7.55 Casper Classics (9015492) 8.15 Mighty Max (8771807) 8.40 Johnny Quest (4529371) 9.05 Sweet Valley High (5079282) 9.30 Peter Rabbit and Friends (76505) 10.00 Teletubbies (24081)
  - 10.30 Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo (1977) Second sequel to The Love Bug, starring Dean Jones, Roy Kinnear, Don Knotts and Mike Myers. Directed by Vincent McEvey (7654588)
  - 12.10pm Noel's La Mansa Dream Last year Noel Edmonds took the challenge of becoming part of a racing team in one of the world's toughest endurance races: the 24-hour Le Mans (1) (3302642)
  - 1.00 News (1) (2782178)
  - 1.10 Neighbours (1) (7198826)
  - 1.30 Brambly Hedge Animated tale about a family of mice (1) (26082)
  - 2.00 Mary Poppins (1964) Disney's classic musical fantasy for which Julie Andrews won her only Oscar as the eponymous Edwardian nanny. Directed by Robert Stevenson (1) (2561444)
  - 4.15 Cartoon (3535401)
  - 4.35 Blue Peter: Review of the Year Highlights from the past year (2/2) (1) (1767130)
  - 5.05 From Grange Hill to Albert Square and Beyond Twenty-first anniversary celebration of the popular testine drama Grange Hill (1) (7829775)
  - 5.45 News (1) and weather (303772)
  - 5.55 Regional News (782517)
  - 6.00 The World's Strongest Man The final, from Las Vegas (1) (80082)
  - 7.00 Mysteries with Carol Vorderman Last in series (1) (86223)
  - 7.30 EastEnders Phil and Annie put their heads together and conspire against a certain someone, while Roy is taken aback by what Frank has to say (1) (3)
  - 8.00 ... Born to Be Wild with Martin Clunes The funnyman helps to release a female elephant back into the wild (1) (6739)
  - 9.00 Forrest Gump (1994) Robert Zemeckis's whimsical take on the American Dream, which netted several Oscars, including the second in a row for Tom Hanks (1) (87450367)
  - 11.15 News (1) regional news and weather (409933)
  - 11.35 Faces of Talent Chris Eubank recalls a brush with Mike Tyson which changed his life, and what the Muslim world of fasting means to him (468449)
  - 11.55 Fleetwood Mac: The Dance Steve Nicks, Lindsay Buckingham, John and Christine McVie and Mick Fleetwood reunite 20 years after the Rumours album's release (1) (430307)
  - 12.55am Carry-On Abroad (1972) The gang set off to the madcap nation of Elsbelt for a week of fun in the sun, only to find an understaffed and half-built hotel. Directed by Gerald Thomas (4987550)
  - 2.20 Weather (1) (814956)
  - 2.20 BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 7.00 Day of the Pharaohs Introduction (1215420)
  - 7.01am Faces of Tutankhamun: Great Adventure (1/5) (1) (6729401) 7.30 Faces of Tutankhamun: Wonderful Things How finding the treasure led to conflict (1) (5757825) 8.40 Faces of Tutankhamun: Everywhere the Gilt of Gold How Tutankhamun-man's swept the world (1) (4257081) 9.30 Faces of Tutankhamun: Pharaoh Awaken Was the tomb cursed? (1) (4583811) 10.00 Faces of Tutankhamun: Heads in the Sand The flight of Tutankhamun's treasures (1) (9298262) Season continues at 2.20pm
  - 11.10 Happy New Year The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, reflects on the year gone by (1) (8448333)
  - 11.15 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Boys Choir, Zubin Mehta. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (4051028)
  - 12.30pm Video Nation: Best of '97 (5152772) 1.20 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: The Magical Mice (5234772) 2.20 Timeshift Investigation into Ciopatra (1) (2584081)
  - 3.10 Ciopatra (1963) Elizabeth Taylor stars in this historical epic directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz. A Ciopatra short entitled The Sand Dunes features in the interval at 5.05-5.10pm (56736420)
  - 7.20 Pyramid People Light-hearted investigation (356536)
  - 7.30 Secrets of Lost Empires How the Ancient Egyptians built their pyramids (1) (740577)
  - 8.20 Secret of My Best Friends are Asps (465178)
  - 8.30 The Ciopatra Files Behind-the-scenes story of the film (1) (4420)
  - 9.00 Search for the Lost Tomb: KVS A quest to locate a lost tomb in the Valley of the Kings (1) (781246)
  - 9.50 The Likely Lads Christmas edition from 1974 (1) (262197)
  - 10.35 Small Faces (1995) Comedy drama directed and co-written by Gilles MacPherson and his producer brother Billy. Three feckless teenage brothers set out to carve their own path in 1968 Glasgow. While the youngest is torn between the lifestyles of the vastly different siblings he both respects and admires, the eldest finds himself running with a vicious gang and spiralling dangerously out of control. With Ian Robertson, Joseph McEvedy and J.S. Duffy (1) (3315958)
  - 12.20 The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (1994) Musical starring Catherine Deneuve and Michel Castellano. In French with English subtitles (264043)
  - 2.05 Skiing Forecast (9141005)

- HTV**
- 8.00am GMTV (538055)
  - 9.25 The Brava Line Toaster (1987) Animation in which a group of household appliances set out to find their previous owner (1) (2068284)
  - 10.50 Escape to Witch Mountain (1995) Disney adventure about orphaned twins who possess extraordinary powers. Directed by Peter Faiman (1) (3617212)
  - 12.30pm News (1) and weather (82737082)
  - 12.45 Baywatch: Air Buchanan (1) (5251449)
  - 1.20 Hollywood's Greatest Stunts (1) (859352)
  - 2.15 The China Syndrome (1979) with Jane Fonda, Jack Lemmon and Michael Douglas. An investigative reporter and a cameraman record a disturbing incident at a nuclear power plant. Directed by James Bridges (282248)
  - 4.30 News (1) and weather (7053888)
  - 4.40 A League of Their Own (1992) with Tom Hanks, Geena Davis and Madonna. With most of America's baseball players fighting in the Second World War, a league of all-women teams is formed to satisfy demand for the sport. Directed by Penny Marshall (1) (86324913)
  - 7.00 Emmerdale Steve finds out the truth about Kim (1) (3791)
  - 7.30 Mr Bean Goes to Town Mr Bean buys himself a new television set and a new camera, a sure recipe for disaster (1) (81)
  - 8.00 Blues and Twee The first in a new lamp-series Bill (1) (3739)
  - 8.30 The Bill Bouton is accidentally stabbed by a needle during a struggle with a drug addict (1) (8248)
  - 9.00 ... Taggeret Bensheraf The first in a new series of the police drama starring James MacPherson and Sylevia Duff (1/3) (1) (4371)
  - 10.00 An Evening with Spike Milligan A mixture of laughter, poetry and song in front of a celebrity audience (1) (1) (4130)
  - 11.00 News (1) and weather (290975)
  - 11.10 Haunted Homeymoon (1998) Comedy horror starring and directed by Gene Wilder. It's 1959 and the star of a hit radio show takes his co-star and fiancée to his family's Gothic mansion. With Gilda Radner and Dom DeLuise (971536)
  - 12.45am Deadly Encounter (1972) with Larry Hagman, Susan Anspach and James Gammon. Dramatic aerial adventures of a veteran combat pilot who runs a helicopter charter service in Mexico and becomes involved in a mission to help an old girlfriend. Directed by William A. Graham (582828)
  - 2.20 Dance '97 (1) (4897647)
  - 3.15 The MTV Europe Music Awards 1997 hosted by Roman Kesting (1) (447056)
  - 5.05 Customs Classified (4909032)
  - 5.55 News (4528024)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.44pm Air Watch (54784468)
  - 12.45-1.20 The Fashion Police (5251449)
  - 4.38 Air Watch (7536265)
  - 4.39-4.40 Local Weather (7536265)
  - 11.09-11.10 Local Weather (206894)
  - 12.45am Frankie Howard at His Titmouse The comedian's last stage show, recorded at the Birmingham Hippodrome in 1991 (4682754)
  - 2.10 Dance '97 A look back at the year in dance music (9337579)
  - 3.10 Flint: Dance Academy (1987) starring Gayn Gorg, Paula Nicholas and Tony Fields. The story of a classical ballet academy that overcomes a financial crisis by training jazz and rock 'n' roll dancers. Directed by Ted Mather (8749379)
  - 5.30 The Making of a Life Less Ordinary (4625937)
  - As HTV West except:
  - 12.45pm-1.20 Emmerdale (5251449)
  - 11.09-11.10 Westcountry Weather (206894)
  - As HTV West except:
  - 12.45pm-1.20 Shortland Street (5251449)
  - As HTV West except:
  - 12.45pm-1.20 Millionaire: Coal Miner's Daughter. The story of Eileen Mulligan, who has made a fortune from facelifts (5251449)
  - Starts: 6.00am Dumb and Dumber (7791352)
  - 6.15 Ovide (1) (778159)
  - 6.35 Madeline (5745975)
  - 7.00 The Babysitters' Club (834688)
  - 7.30 Two Stupid Dogs (42975)
  - 8.00 The Big Breakfast (14604)
  - 10.01 Happy Days (808740)
  - 10.35 Saved by the Bell (8388333)
  - 11.05 Moshes (5339807)
  - 11.20 The Monkees (4265)
  - 12.00 Coping With (79468)
  - 12.30pm The Gallery (82735604)
  - 1.00 Wil Cavac Cavac (2786948)
  - 1.15 Racing from Cheltenham (49782604)
  - 3.45 The Lord's Prayer (8350420)
  - 4.30 Bewitched (10)
  - 4.30 Countdown (1422245)
  - 5.40 5 Pump (462061)
  - 5.40 Crayfish: Our Byd Wedi Eui Harimeddio (82150)
  - 6.00 Newyddion (418420)
  - 6.10 Heno (98225)
  - 6.50 Gogo (729159)
  - 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (961246)
  - 7.25 Penybwyll Hapus (179130)
  - 8.00 Gogo (474826)
  - 8.05 Law yn y Dolina (1236448)
  - 9.10 Gogo (395371)
  - 9.20 Newyddion (382807)
  - 9.35 Film: Providence (8013913)
  - 11.05 Storm Over 4 (468739)
  - 12.05am Film: Last Tango in Paris (9698805)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Dumb and Dumber (1) (7791352)
  - 6.15 Ovide (1) (807248)
  - 6.40 Madeline (1) (5760284)
  - 7.00 The Babysitters' Club (1) (4612913)
  - 7.30 Two Stupid Dogs (1) (8412284)
  - 8.00 The Big Breakfast (14604)
  - 10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8341913)
  - 10.01 Happy Days (808740)
  - 10.35 Saved by the Bell (1) (8388333)
  - 11.05 Moshes (1) (5339807)
  - 11.20 The Monkees (5194178) 12.05pm Coping With: Relatives (4/6) (1859178) 12.35 Erie, Indiana (1) (7006081) 1.00 A Dog's Life: Cartoon (2788468)
  - 1.15 Racing from Cheltenham Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 1.35, 2.10, 2.45 and 3.20 races (49782604)
  - 3.45 The Lord's Prayer Comedy short: a pilgrimage to Lord's cricket ground (4624420)
  - 3.55 News and weather (4164536)
  - 4.00 Bewitched (10)
  - 4.30 Countdown (1) (84)
  - 5.00 The Railway Children (1970) Classic children's tale based on the story by E. Nesbit starring Dinah Sheridan, Bernard Cribbins and Jenny Agutter. Directed by Lionel Jeffries (50333)
  - 7.00 Concert of Hope A concert in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. With Gary Barlow, Robbie Williams, Boyzone, Damage, 911, All Saints and Peter Andre (1) (3401)
  - 8.00 Desmond's A 1993 episode of the comedy starring Norman Beaton (1) (1) (3951)
  - 8.30 Wet Side Story Documentary focusing on vampire bats in Central America's rainforests (1) (6888)
  - Starts: 6.00am Dumb and Dumber (7791352)
  - 6.15 Ovide (1) (778159)
  - 6.35 Madeline (5745975)
  - 7.00 The Babysitters' Club (834688)
  - 7.30 Two Stupid Dogs (42975)
  - 8.00 The Big Breakfast (14604)
  - 10.01 Happy Days (808740)
  - 10.35 Saved by the Bell (8388333)
  - 11.05 Moshes (5339807)
  - 11.20 The Monkees (4265)
  - 12.00 Coping With (79468)
  - 12.30pm The Gallery (82735604)
  - 1.00 Wil Cavac Cavac (2786948)
  - 1.15 Racing from Cheltenham (49782604)
  - 3.45 The Lord's Prayer (8350420)
  - 4.30 Bewitched (10)
  - 4.30 Countdown (1422245)
  - 5.40 5 Pump (462061)
  - 5.40 Crayfish: Our Byd Wedi Eui Harimeddio (82150)
  - 6.00 Newyddion (418420)
  - 6.10 Heno (98225)
  - 6.50 Gogo (729159)
  - 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (961246)
  - 7.25 Penybwyll Hapus (179130)
  - 8.00 Gogo (474826)
  - 8.05 Law yn y Dolina (1236448)
  - 9.10 Gogo (395371)
  - 9.20 Newyddion (382807)
  - 9.35 Film: Providence (8013913)
  - 11.05 Storm Over 4 (468739)
  - 12.05am Film: Last Tango in Paris (9698805)

- CHANNEL 5**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequency for transponder N 83 are picture: 10.92075 MHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
  - 8.00am Dappledown Farm (1) (5610352)
  - 8.30 The Wind in the Willows (5685352)
  - 7.00 Wildlife House (1) (5554011) 7.30 Awh and the Chipmunks (5574536) 8.00 Havelkzoo (1) (7200130) 8.30 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (1) (7220401) 9.00 Sticks Around (1) (7220381) 9.30 Wishbone (1) (6838619)
  - 10.00 The End: Byron Series: The Secret of Moon Castle When staying in an Irish castle, the children meet a ghost (75744333)
  - 11.50 Animal Xtremes: Fido the Dog (4368130) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (7210517) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (832325) 1.00 5 News (78320264) 1.05 Pop Station: Meet Hanson (8698401)
  - 1.30 USA High (7732866) 2.00 Girlfriends (8550710) 2.35 Doris: Mailed (8671578) 3.20 Doris: This Year's Model (1065178) 3.45 Sater Said (8377604) 3.55 Olympic Gods: Zeus and Io (73158807)
  - 4.10 Xena: Warrior Princess — Sins of the Past (1) (8417555) 5.05 Xena: Warrior Princess — Charis of War (1) (8271246)
  - 6.00 100 Per Cent (8266223)
  - 6.30 Family Affairs (1) (8227975)
  - 7.00 Polar Bear: The behaviour of the Arctic bear (1) (4997555)
  - 8.00 Hospital! A comedy about a surgeon facing a difficult choice. With Greg Wise and Bob Peck (1) (1) (4973975)
  - 9.00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1992) with Kristy Swanson, Luke Perry and Donald Sutherland. A comedy horror about a teenager who discovers that she has awesome powers. Directed by Fran Rubel Kuzui (5007358)
  - 10.35 Secrets and Lies A profile of Chris Evans (2865307)
  - 11.05 Fame and Fortune The lifestyle of Ozzy Osbourne (1) (1040642)
  - 12.05am The King of Marvin Gardens (1972) Jack Nicholson and Bruce Dern star in this crime drama directed by Bob Fosse (4468686)
  - 2.00 On Wings of Eagles The first of a two-part drama set in 1970s Iran, starring Burt Lancaster. Concludes tomorrow (2677173)
  - 4.20 Rag Doll (1980, b/w) A kitchen-sink drama starring Jess Conrad. Directed by Lance Comfort (51479463)
  - 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (8684937)



MacPherson and Duff (9.00pm)



Media mogul Danny Webb (9.00pm)



Kristy Swanson and Luke Perry (9pm)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 1.00am (1998) 2.00 It Came from Outer Space (1998) 3.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 4.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 5.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 6.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 7.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 8.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 9.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 10.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 11.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 12.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979)

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STOCK MARKET 37

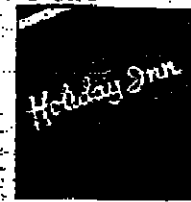
Year-end sale takes shine off final session

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JANUARY 1 1998

KEY CHANGES 38

Oliver asks for more at Holiday Inn



Ladbroke to buy Coral betting shops for £400m

By DOMINIC WALSH
LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group, is today expected to announce the acquisition of the Coral betting shop chain from Bass for around £400 million...

The acquisition of Coral's 930 shops would take Ladbroke's total presence to 2,800 units, giving it more than a third of the country's 8,500 bookies...

Bass shares rose 1 1/2p to 944 1/2p. Ladbroke shares fell 1 1/2p to 264p. The sale of Coral, the UK's number three chain, follows a spectacular season...

decided it wouldn't overpay for William Hill, a decision to sell was more or less inevitable. Ladbroke is the obvious buyer as it will be able to cut out a lot of costs and reap synergies from putting the two chains together...

None of the parties involved would comment. However, Peter Jones, recently installed as chairman of the Tote, reiterated recent comments that he would like to expand from the organisation's current total of 210 shops...

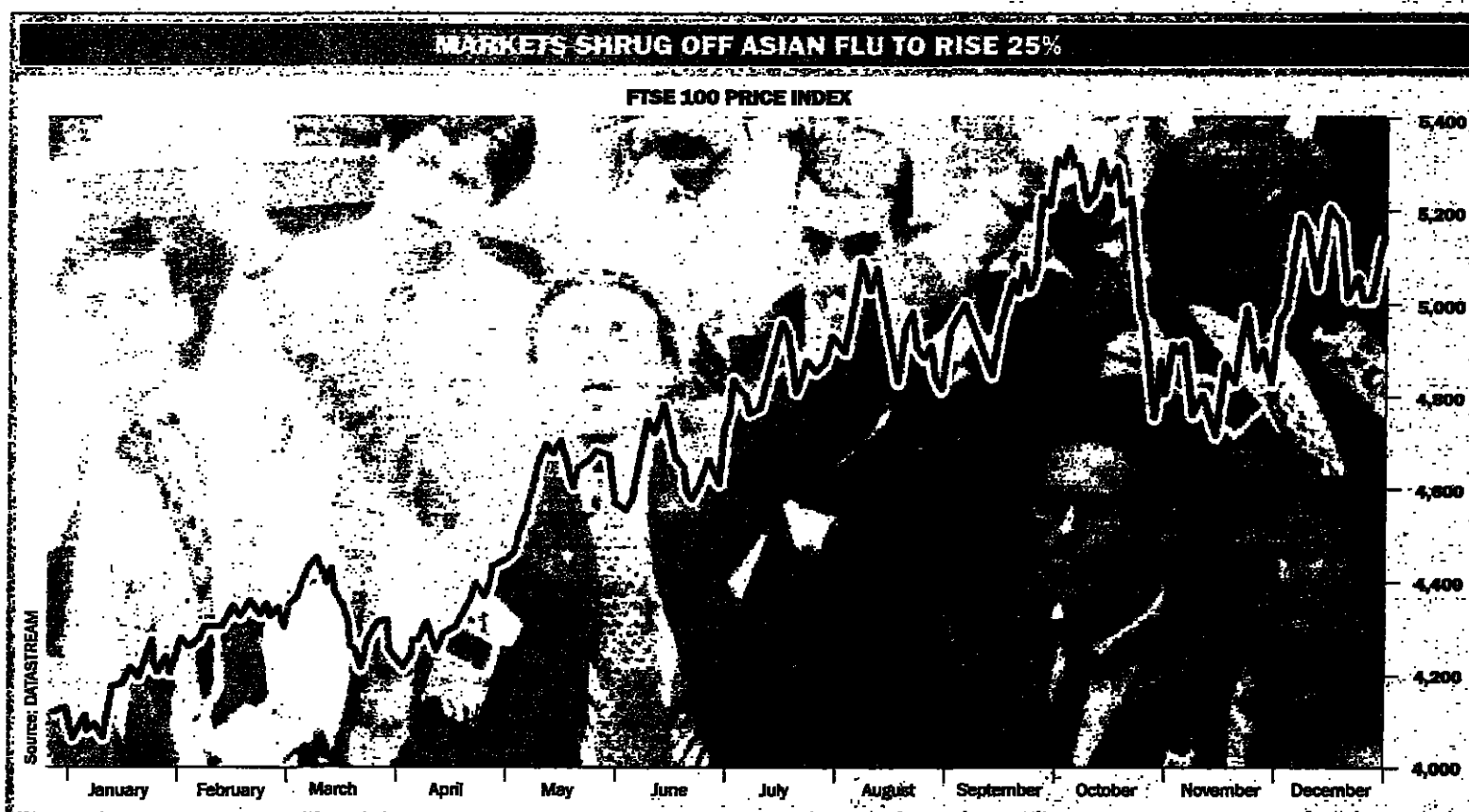
proceeds from disposals - by the brewing group in the past three weeks to well over £1 billion. Despite the decision to return more than £850 million to shareholders, Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, still has a war chest of nearly £2 billion to bolster the group's core hotel and retail divisions...

Oliver asks for more, page 38

Share trading cut short to thwart rogue dealers

By MICHAEL CLARK
STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

TRADING in shares was cut short yesterday as the London Stock Exchange took unprecedented action to prevent manipulation of the market by rogue dealers. The exchange halted trading 20 minutes ahead of schedule...



closing prices of all FTSE 100 shares in the light of the unusual trading conditions. The panel found it was necessary to alter the price of 11 constituents of the index, making some significant changes...

marked 30p higher to 610p and Halifax was lifted 28p to 764p. By contrast, General Accident fell 40p to £10.55. Total volume yesterday was 216.5 million shares...

solely by the low level of volume in shares traded. The action reflects concern about the behaviour of some traders after the introduction of Sets. Earlier this month JP Morgan, the merchant bank, was ordered to pay a record £300,000 fine...

have placed orders for SmithKline Beecham and GlaxoWellcome shares at well below the market price. Two JP Morgan employees were subsequently dismissed. Some traders may seek to move the index by buying or selling leading shares...

London's most successful years as a financial centre. The FTSE 100 rose 24.7 per cent in 1997, its second biggest annual gain, in spite of the financial crisis in the Far East that at one stage threatened to halt the bull market...

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues for 'No 1291'. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' sections with numbered clues.

- ACROSS: 3 Roc 9 Tiara 9 Agitate 10 Madness 11 Genoa 12 Bandit 14 Depths 15 Adduce 17 Prison 20 Drom 21 Tapered 24 Seminar 25 Wrist 26 Man
DOWN: 1 Stem 2 Pardon 3 Race 4 Cause 5 King Lear 6 Eat out 7 Tenneyson 12 Brandish 13 Incoming 16 Dyzano 18 Serbia 19 Storm 22 Pawn 23 Duty

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP. NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE. The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7) £2.99, The Times Crossword (Book 20) £2.99...

Hemmings' way to a cool £2.6m

By CHRIS AYRES
TREVOR HEMMINGS, the bricklayer turned leisure tycoon, yesterday added a further £2.6 million to his personal fortune when he sold his supermarket ice-cream business to a rival company for £10.6 million...

Mutuals 'win' on mortgage costs

By MARIANNE CURPHY
MUTUAL building societies, which have long argued that they offer better rates for members than shareholder-owned banks, have had their claims vindicated in a new survey...

Thousands set to miss turn-of-the-century fun

Bug ban looms over 2000 party

By FRASER NELSON
THOUSANDS are set to miss out on the millennium festivities as anxious companies impose a ban on leave at the end of 1999 to guard against the failure of their computer systems...

British Telecom expects to pay up to £300 million to modernise its system, but concedes that a substantial part of this spend is in buying new systems, and scrapping existing computers...

IMF aid keeps Korea solvent

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

A MULTIBILLION-dollar credit lifeline from the International Monetary Fund and leading international banks, put together earlier this week, ensured that South Korea remained solvent at the end of the year - but only just. The IMF agreed to disburse another \$2 billion of its international rescue package...

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, FTSE All Share, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P 500, Federal Funds, Long Bond, etc.

Table with financial data including New York, London, DM, ¥, S, £, etc.

Table with financial data including Tokyo close Yen Closed, Brent 15-day (Mar), London close, etc.

Heinrich Bauer in IPC bid

By OUR CITY STAFF
HEINRICH Bauer Publishing, a German company, has been confirmed as a bidder for IPC Magazines, the company whose 74 titles include Woman's Own, TV Times and New Musical Express...

Who won what and why? THE TIMES Guide to THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. The ultimate reference guide to the 1997 General Election results. Includes detailed breakdown of results by constituency. £35 (inc P&P).